

THE LOGGER'S BARK

a magazine

Radio Club of Tacoma



NEW! Icom IC-7760

p. 71

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www.W7DK.org

Radio Club of Tacoma
1249 South Washington Street
Tacoma, WA 98405
253-759-2040

W7DK

Open House every Saturday
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Last Saturday every month is
Swapmeet Day

Radio Club of Tacoma

Founded 1916

W7DK 2024 OFFICERS

AND COMMITTEE LEADERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President: Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Vice President: Adam Barbera W2NCC
Secretary: Gary McAdams WG7X
Treasurer: Steve Dightman AF7YD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Board: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
Board: Paul Matney W7PFU
Board: Doug Schafer AB7DG
Board: Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board: Phil Pia K7PIA

KEY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Membership: George K7GRS/Mike W7XH
Salmon Run: George K7GRS/Mike W7XH
Infotech/IT: Randy WB4SPB
HF Operations: Phil K7PIA
Facilities: Adam W2NCC
Property Mgmt. Red WB7EC
Museum: Dan KD7SV
Planning: Manny AD7MA
POTA: BJ KO7T
General Meeting: Dave W7UUU
Bark layout & Editor: Dave W7UUU
Assistant/Copy Editor: Anne N7ANN

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**But don't stop there! Each issue is
50 or more pages of fun and cool
stuff to explore! Scroll on!**

HAVE A SUBMISSION FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE?

loggersbark@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Monthly ruminations from our President

Mike Mikuchonis
W7XTZ

HELLO GANG! I HOPE YOU'VE HAD a great summer here in Pugetropolis. I know that many of you have taken advantage of the blue skies and warm temperatures to be outside. It was nice to see all the smiling faces of members, XYs and others at our August 4th annual picnic at Fort Steilacoom Park.

With October here, we're having some cool weather along with some badly-needed wet stuff falling out of the sky at times. But there's still time to do outdoor fun stuff along with getting ready for fall & winter with chores around the house. By the time this blurb is published, [Salmon Run](#) will have come and gone. Hopefully, you were able to participate in our second big radio operating event after Field Day.

But wait....there's more! Club member BJ Rolison **KO7T** (formerly **WA7WJR**), our POTA (parks on the air) guru, along with others, will activate [St. Edward State Park](#) in Kenmore. POTA has become very popular of late with both operators and those that like to work parks (known as "Hunters"). If you're interested in participating, send an email to potaops@w7dk.org for more information or to sign up. Check the [W7DK Web-](#)

[site](#) for more info such as address and location.

In other news, BJ **KO7T** is heading up the "Sasquatch Awareness Day" special event. He has reserved special event call signs **W7B**, **W7I**, **W7G**, **W7F**, **W7O**, **W7T**. You can work the Sasquatch from home, the clubhouse or portable and if you work all of the call signs, collecting all

the suffixes so that you spell BIGFOOT, you will be eligible for a cool Sasquatch certificate. QSL cards will also be available. Once again, check out the website at w7dk.org for more information.

But wait....there's still more!!! Rumor has it that we will have a soldering class on one of our fourth Wednes-

days and a antenna/dipole construction class on another fourth Wednesday. Once again, check out the [club website](#) for more and/or upcoming information.

That's it for now, time to repair my back porch railing. The porch has done well for over 30 years and needed some TLC. Some planks have been replaced as needed and hopefully the porch will last until one of the sons will have to take over, LOL! See you at the clubhouse for coffee, doughnuts & chatter. -73 de Mike **W7XTZ**



FROM THE DESK OF THE VP

Insights from our Vice President

Adam Barbera
W2NCC

DEVELOPING AND PROMOTING CLUB ACTIVITIES

Ham radio is so much more than a hobby that connects people around the world. It's not just talking on a radio—it involves computers, software, electronics, building equipment and much, much more.

To keep clubs exciting and appealing, especially to new hams, it's important to offer and promote engaging activities within the club. Offering such activities is very much a requirement for clubs to help grow and retain membership.

Activities like workshops, bunny hunts, and Field Day provide hands-on experience, allowing new hams to learn and practice essential skills. Also, hosting regular activities to help foster the feeling of belonging to the organization. When members participate in group events, there is a sense of camaraderie and friendships that form, making the club more than just a place to talk about radios.... more than a sum of its parts, but a vibrant dynamic organization that would not otherwise exist.

Our philosophy at W7DK is to offer activities that will help grow and retain club membership. Interesting activities related to radio are a useful recruitment tool—they always have been... but perhaps even more important today—with so much “tech competition” out there from cell phones and internet distractions, to countless other modern attractions. When potential members see the variety of activities and the enthusiasm of current members, they

are more likely to join with us. Having a range of such activities adds value to the community. The broader that range, the broader the appeal. Members feel they are getting more out of their involvement with the club when they have access to educational training, events, and practical experiences of all types and knowledge levels.

Such activities require planning, coordination and above all, a true leader to in fact lead the effort. This is an opportunity to encourage and identify members to take on leadership roles. Often, members have advanced knowledge or skillsets on a topic and these individuals should be encouraged to share their knowledge with others in the club.

Promoting activities that are fun and of interest is necessary for making clubs like ours more interesting in a hyper-technological age, and be appealing to all hams and prospective hams. These activities not only enhance learning and community building but also attract new members and retain existing ones. By continuously offering engaging and varied events, clubs can not only thrive but grow. It's more important than ever that W7DK strive to achieve these goals. And with the right leadership and vision, this is not only possible—it's doable.

-73—Adam W2NCC



SECRETARY'S REPORT

W7DK Secretary—Gary WG7X



PHYSICAL SECURITY at W7DK: A Rant in Many Paragraphs...

Folks, we really should not have to talk about this subject with our members, but recently there have been clues around the clubhouse that some folks are not taking our clubhouse security seriously.

It started when we (the officers and committee chairs) would come to open the clubhouse for meetings and we found empty beer bottles sitting in the HF room, the W7OS Memorial Museum and the Lou Room.

Now, drinking beer in the clubhouse is not against the rules, but leaving bottles scattered around the clubhouse indicates a certain, shall we say, *low level of basic care for our facility*.

We all are adults; your mom doesn't work at W7DK. So do the minimum and *clean up your messes!*

In this same vein, recently in addition to a messy clubhouse, there have been several incidents, and by that, I mean at least four separate times that the clubhouse has been left open or left maybe locked up but without the alarm being set.

We were lucky last month, because during the monthly meeting at the Tacoma Eagles Aerie, someone came in to tell the collected audience that the clubhouse was standing empty, both doors wide open and nobody there! This particular member did not have the burglar alarm code, but it only takes one button push to lock either main en-

try door (you don't need the door code to lock the doors from outside).

Thanks to this warning, we were able to quickly dispatch a member of the club who *did* have the door and alarm codes and they secured the clubhouse.

But—and *this is a mighty big butt*—this should **never** happen at W7DK! We're all adults here and we know enough about physical security at the clubhouse to know that we simply can't just walk away and hope that somebody else would close the door behind them, and that **YOU** didn't have to worry about it!

Recent events (garage and shed break-ins) at W7DK should have driven home the necessity for at least the *minimum*

care for our **/your** clubhouse! After all, when you leave your home to come to W7DK open house, do you lock up **YOUR** home? Of course you lock up before leaving! These days anything less than that is just inviting bad stuff to happen.

That said, yes, the Open House Host for that day will hear all about this lapse.

Members are required to sign

the log, which is usually kept in the kitchen, every time they visit the clubhouse. Unfortunately, of course, our messy careless members (the beer drinkers) never did that. That means that we cannot address the guilty directly, but just in general terms.

So here's the bottom line: if this continues, the Board of Directors will have to do a big reset of the alarm and building passcodes. We have had the same codes for way too long. We (the officers) should have been doing this reset long before, so we also share culpability in this. It needs to be done and W7DK will be doing this, so get ready.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

W7DK Secretary—Gary WG7X



By the same token, all the folks who are current key holders should also be aware that holding keys to the doors upstairs, the garage or the shed is a privilege that carries a *high level of responsibility*.

We have no idea exactly how many key holders we have out there and there is plenty of evidence that some of the indoor keys to the museum and HF room have been duplicated. If we take this to the ultimate degree, not only will we have to update the alarm system, but it follows that we would also have to change each lock on the premises.

Folks, we should not have to go to this extreme because if we do, it means extra expense—and to be truthful, we should have had tighter control of these keys in the first place.

This will be an agenda item at the next Board of Directors meeting, you can count on that...

Speaking not only as a club officer, but as a long-time member also, I hold keys that allow me to visit the clubhouse at will. I can go up there to operate the radio stations. Or to do some secretarial work. I would really like to think that I can continue to do this without problems. I'm a bit of a security nut myself... There have been a couple of times that I have been to the clubhouse to process mail or applications on a day when no one else was there. I try to make sure that I've secured the building and the file cabinet before I leave.

You know how when you're just getting comfortable in bed prior to sleeping, how your mind kind of goes over the day in review? Well, at least two times this year, that has happened to me, and I was unsure enough about having properly locked things up that I got up out of my nice warm bed, fired up the truck, and went to the clubhouse to recheck—only to find that I had indeed secured everything properly when I left for the day. But

better safe than sorry. We all need to think this way.

I want the rest of you to have the same sense of responsibility where the physical security of our clubhouse is concerned. It's not that difficult and if you are in the clubhouse by yourself, even if it is an open-house Saturday, please ensure that, even if you don't know the alarm code, you at least lock the doors and immediately contact any club officer to let them know the status of the clubhouse, and the need to have someone come down to turn on the alarm system.

Now, I know that people are reticent to release their contact information to the public and that includes me. Fortunately, in this very publication, we have a page called: [The Elmer Board](#). Every person on that list has a published number that you can call or text, and most have access to the door and alarm codes and can help you out. It's just that easy.

No excuses, folks. There is NEVER a good reason the clubhouse should be left unsecured. Security is important if we want to remain able to use our facilities, period!

-73, Gary **WG7X**, Secretary W7DK





WELL FOLKS, IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN! COLD AND FLU SEASON IS UPON US.

As I write this, I'm on Day One of what will probably be a 3 or 4 day cold cycle. We all know the drill—just about the time summer is starting to close down, we start running into folks who are sick with colds, flu, or “that disease from some recent unpleasantness I'd rather not name” (that starts with the letter C). It's no secret that the clubhouse is not a huge place, and when packed with people on a Saturday, if one sick person shows up there's a strong likelihood that it will spread to others who are in the building, who then carry it on to everywhere they go. It's also not a secret that many of our members are elderly with lessened immune systems. The same of course holds true for the Eagles Club meeting place every second Saturday of the month.

So *please* — if you're not feeling well, for the good of the order, **just stay home** and help keep your club friends healthy.

On another note: As some may have heard in any of the recent meetings, I'm looking for someone to take over the monthly club programs. I started as Program Planner in 2014 with my first official program being at the May General Meeting that

year. Over the past ten years, for one year (2021) Verna Lilly KF7SCB took over and did a wonderful job. But after her year, it fell back to me which was totally fine. These days however, my duties with *The Logger's Bark*, filming and editing W7DK Living Histories interview videos, and a number of photographic and video research and production projects for the club, just take up most of my free time. It would nice if someone else could take a

shift as the Program Manager. It's not a hard job—but it takes persistence. There are many resources out there for clubs to come up with programs and I will happily coach you on how to go about that.

Some leads turn out to be

duds—manufacturers like SteppIR Antennas who you think would be

delighted to give a presentation, will simply ghost you. They just don't care to do club programs. But others (such as [FlexRadio](#) who will be our November program presenter) are delighted. As was Patrick from [Geochron](#) a couple of months ago. It just takes perseverance in following up with potential presenters. I can help guide you in the process! So give it some thought—we're covered through the end of this year—but come January, *I will no longer be able to do this* so hopefully someone will come forward. Just please drop me an email!

Thanks & hope to hear from you —Dave W7UUU





I RECENTLY READ AN ARTICLE in [Philanthropy News Digest](#) describing the state of volunteerism in the United States overall, and the trend is not encouraging. Oddly, such statistics have only been tracked since the year 2000, but the bad news is there has never been a year since then that volunteerism in this country has been on the rise. In fact, it's been on the decline ever since. As of 2023, only some 23% of Americans volunteer for anything! And the annual decline has been as high as 7% (2020-2021, which most assuredly is due to the Covid pandemic).

But the evidence is all around. As members of [The Fraternal Order of Eagles](#), Anne N7ANN and I were shocked to learn our local aerie in Port Orchard no longer publishes "The Claw" newsletter. Why? Because the outgoing editor had been asking for over a year for someone to take over, and finally—after no one stepped forward, she just stopped. *And from that day on, there has been no club newsletter.*

Any organization like The Eagles or our own Radio Club of Tacoma depends on the efforts of its members to "do the work that makes it work". And it's not always "brute and brawn" work like building sheds and yard work crews. There are *many* tasks in any club that might go more unnoticed in the physical work involved in them but are nevertheless

important for the club. Jobs like treasurer, host, secretary, HF committee, PMT committee, membership, programs, newsletter, and many many others that may not be so obvious but still call for the efforts of club members to carry forward.

Are *you* currently volunteering to help your fellow club members? It's time for some soul-searching...

are you at the Clubhouse most every Saturday but have never tried your hand at any number of available roles to help keep The Mighty DK alive and well? Not all the volunteer jobs require physical strength and ability. In fact, I'd argue that *most* do not!

So think about it—is there something *you* could enjoy

contributing to the betterment of your beloved radio club and fellow members? Are there activities that *you* enjoy that you could possibly aid in advancing for the benefit of others? Just let any officer know—talk about it—find out what's involved and what it might take to help out. We need you!

If all of us put our minds together, at least within the Radio Club of Tacoma, as a team and a club we could in fact do our part to *stop the decline* and truly be a part of the *growth* in volunteerism in our own small way. Something to think about...

-Dave W7UUU





THIS IS A NEW RECURRING SECTION OF THE BARK set aside to announce new members to the club who wish to be so presented. For this, the first appearance of the column, we'd like to welcome **Fred Freer, K8IG**, who recently joined the RCT as an out-of-state full voting member after following the club for some time in this very magazine, *The Logger's Bark*. Welcome to the club, Fred! We welcome you!

What follows is a short biography Fred submitted for this purpose. ■ -editor

"The oldest brother of three, I was born in 1942.

Early jobs included multiple newspaper routes, multiple lawn mowing customers, and my first job at age 13 working for Bill's Shoe Repair as an apprentice. But with a developing interest in all things mechanical and electrical, I landed a job with Lee Road Electric, at age 15, repairing small electric appliances, radios, and eventually televisions. In my junior year of high school, I secured a job at Lowe's Electronics Lab servicing radios and televisions where I worked for four years before undergraduate school. And, working part-time, I worked for Custom Communications installing and servicing marine and land mobile radio commercial equipment. Then, I funded my undergraduate education (Kent State University) by servicing radios and commercial two-way equipment for Radiomobile.

Following my undergraduate education, I worked as an engineer for Ohio Bell Telephone (OBT) designing

central office switching systems. After 16 years with OBT and following the divestiture of the Bell System, I devoted two years to my family and graduate school at Case Western Reserve University (MBA). Following my graduate education, I continued post-graduate work at Kent State University in finance and served as a licensed public-school business manager for three Cleveland area school districts. Then, I reopened my residential and commercial remodeling business and expanded my services to include licensed residential and commercial property inspections and certified infrared thermography.

My early interest in radio was prompted by a home-built crystal set with an oatmeal box inductor, a Galena crystal detector, headphones, as well as an antenna and ground. A neighbor, **W8KQF** (SK), encouraged radio wave exploration using his Hallicrafters SX-28 in the early 1950s. I earned my novice ticket in 1960. I am an extra class operator with special operating interests in CW, AM, RTTY, and other digital modes including FT-4 and FT-8. However, my greatest satisfaction comes from hollow state equipment restoration.

A life Member of the ARRL, QCWA, IEEE, The Antique Wireless Association, and other organizations, I serve as an ARRL and W5YI VE. Finally, with my XYL Mary, we have eight children, fourteen grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren"

-Fred, **K8IG**



Fred **K8IG** and XYL Mary

HAM RADIO WORLD NEWS

Amateur radio events from *around the world*



W7UUU



Radio Society of Great Britain

Advancing amateur radio since 1913

How would I apply for a paper exam?

The process for applying for a paper examination on the grounds of special educational needs will be the same as currently used for special requirements in exams, such as extra time and readers, etc. It should be noted that many special requirements—e.g. font face and background colour—can be met using the TestReach platform.

Any other reasons for wanting paper exams should be put in writing and emailed to the Examinations Department at exams@rsgb.org.uk and these will be forwarded to the Examination Standards Manager, Examinations Quality Assurance Manager, and Examinations Standards Committee Chair for consideration.

What do I do if I've already planned to take a paper exam?

If you are a Club Examinations Secretary and have advanced plans for paper exams in the period up to 13 December 2024—e.g. candidates primed and an exam room booked—please ensure your booking is received by the RSGB Exams Department on or before 29 November 2024.

Category: [Front Page News](#), [GB2RS Headlines](#), [RSGB Notices](#)

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The Logger's Bark Magazine/Newsletter is now viewed around the world. This column brings news of Amateur Radio from abroad to our local and global readership.

ROUTINE AVAILABILITY OF PAPER EXAMS ENDS 31 December 2024

Currently 97 percent of [amateur radio licence examinations](#) are sat online using the [TestReach](#) platform, either at home under remote supervision, or in a [club](#) setting.

Following the implementation of [Syllabus v1.6](#) on 1 September 2024, the new examination question bank will only be maintained online.

Generating paper exams will involve significant additional work for the RSGB Examinations Department, with the associated costs.

Therefore, from 29 November 2024, we will stop taking routine bookings for paper exams.

Dates to remember:

- Paper exams will continue until 13 December 2024
 - The final date to book a paper exam to take place in December 2024 will be 29 November
- From 1 January 2025, paper exams will no longer be available except in approved cases of special educational needs



Global Announcement? Email me!



ARRL NEWS & VIEWS



W1AW

ARRL SECTION MANAGERS GATHER for Training at Headquarters

09/20/2024

The ARRL Field Organization is divided geographically into 71 sections. A key volunteer that members in each section elect is the Section Manager. These ARRL member-volunteers take a critical role in being the front line of the organization to members.

On Saturday, September 15, 2024, 13 ARRL Section Managers gathered at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, for training. ARRL staff members gave them a detailed overview of what the association does on a daily basis, and how the resources from HQ can serve members out in the sections.

ARRL Field Service Manager Mike Walters, W8ZY, serves as the point of contact for Section Managers. "These folks have taken on a tremendous responsibility to serve ARRL members and ham radio in general. They're the ones who facilitate the work of ARRL in the field, and we want to make sure they have every tool available to them," said Walters.

After a day of hard work in the conference room, the group of volunteers activated W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station.

Section Managers in attendance include: Scott Bauer, W2LC, of Western New York; Matthew Crook, W1MRC, of South Carolina; Carmen Greene, KP4QVQ, of Puerto Rico; Steven Keller, KC3DSO, of Delaware; Bruce Krypton, AG6X, of San Diego; Alan Maenchen, AD6E, of Pacific; Jon McCombie, N1ILZ of Eastern Massachusetts; Antonis Papatsaras, AA6PP, of San Francisco; Houston Polson, N5YS, of Louisiana; Scott Rosenfeld, N7JI, of Oregon; Douglas Sharafonowich, WA1SFH, of Connecticut; and Chris Van Winkle, AB3WG, of Maryland-DC. Also in attendance was ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Scott Yonally, N8SY.



Photo of the workshop attendees - ARRL photo



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By W7UUU



BJ Rollison KO7T

BJ KO7T (formerly WA7WJR) is quite the “renaissance man” about the club! 1-man DXpeditioner: Mariana Is., Vietnam, Pohnpei, Guam, Rotuma, Fiji, etc... but he’s also a photographer, fly fisherman, trap shooter, Civilian Marksman, sail-boarder, surfer, open-ocean sailor, Master Diver Trainer, ice hockey player, Bark contributor, our POTA Director, and just an all around nice guy! So say howdy to BJ, our Spotlight member this month!



Fernando Santos, **EA4BL** of **Zafra**, in the southwest of **Spain**, not only was the first to spot the August "hidden word" (Vibroplex) but also the first DX recipient of stickers!

To the Editor:

Mike, [Membership Director]

I stumbled onto The Loggers Bark and was immediately impressed. In fact, I am so impressed that I am going to share my copy of the Loggers Bark with a couple of amateur radio colleagues with the prospect that they may also be interested in remote membership.

I do want to support RCT and would value the opportunity to vote. Therefore, I would like a full membership. Please donate any residuals to the club and I'll do what I can in the future to further support the club.

Keep up the good work and please extend my best wishes to the leadership and membership.

Best 73,

Fred Freer, **K8IG**
Mayfield Village, OH

Dear Editor:

I just discovered your GREAT newsletter! Please keep them coming.
73,

Adrian **VK4KL**
Moura, Queensland, Australia

From QRZ,

What an excellent, professionally produced magazine. I found it accidentally on QRZ early this year and I pour through every edition.

Greetings from down under!

Cheers...

Robert **VK3ARM**
Grampians, Victoria,
Australia

From QRZ,

There is a lot of history with our hobby and the ARRL. They did a lot of good back then! It's great that your club is keeping that alive. That's a lot of work each month putting that newsletter together... GREAT JOB!

Bob **W5RG**
Norman, Oklahoma

From QRZ,

Do you EVER get any SLEEP??

;-)

Chip **W1YW**
Belmont, Massachusetts

Errata from Previous Issue

September issue Errata:

Page 64 near the end: W7MXE should be **K7MXE**... sorry Bob!

On Page 29, Hidden Word called out on page 59 but is actually page 56



AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Dave **W7GEL** looks on as Mike **W7MKE** tries repeatedly to work a DX station on 20 SSB



Walt **WA7SDY** at the same time in the 7610 station tunes up the 40m band awaiting the Noontime Net



Warren **NG7G** works with Nolan **K7GBM** to get Nolan's computer to talk to his IC-705



Anne **N7ANN** yuks it up with club chef Paul **W7PFU** in the club classroom

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Happy Saturday gang in the Lou Room



*VP Adam **W2NCC** chatting over a Cup O'Joe
at the RF Lab desk*



*Nathan **KK7QND** and his little brother Elliott
mug for the camera in the kitchen*



*Club tech trainer Stephen **AD7AB** chats tech
with John **N1JAB***

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*All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU***

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



BJ with wife Dana shares his news that he's no longer
WA7WJR but now **KO7T**!



L>R: Bob **K7MXE**, David **AC7KP**, and
Dan **KD7SV** visiting in the HF room



President Mike (center) **W7XTZ** hanging with Nolan
K7GBM, as Steve **AD7VL** looks on



President Mike **W7XTX** waves from the
clubhouse porch

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

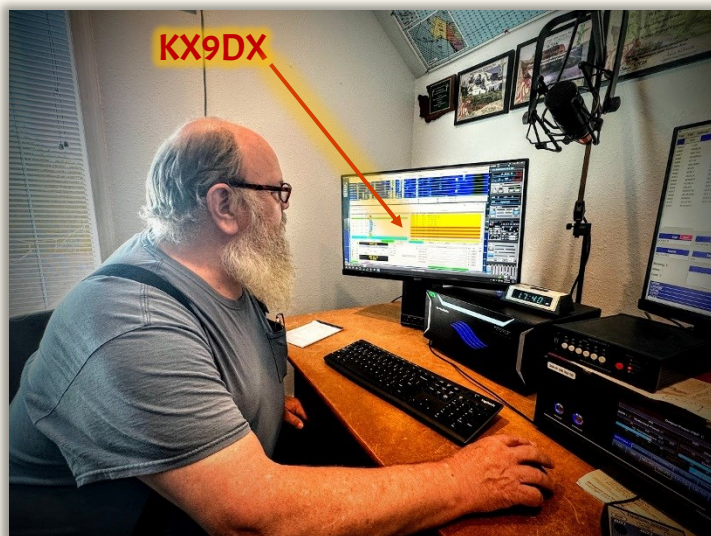
All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Bob **K7MXE** makes his first FT8 contact, and his first ever contact using a FlexRadio! August 31st



Sharing the moment: L>R Gary **W67X**, Greg **KT1A**, and Bob **K7MXE** studying the WSJT-X screen on the Flex

This was a really fun event at the Clubhouse on Saturday August 31st. Being "The Last Saturday" it was our monthly in-house Swapmeet, and burgers (other times hotdogs) for all. It's always a fun day and usually a nice crowd, especially in the summer. A number of us were hanging out in the HF room, when Mike **W7XH** (not pictured) asked Bob **K7MXE** to sit in the FlexRadio position. As anyone who knows Bob is surely aware, he's famously not a fan of FT8 nor a fan of Flex. Being an old-school CW and Phone guy, Flex rigs and digital modes just aren't his thing. But once the ruse to get him in the chair worked, the encouragement was on to get him to take the mouse, enable "Transmit" and work a station calling CQ (**KX9DX**). Bob often finds the positive side of most anything, and this was one of those times. **He later wrote to me**, "I still think FT8 is totally worthless for me but I will give it credit for a few things: for someone with hearing issues, you can do FT8 and still do ham radio and not be handicapped or held back. Totally deaf? No problem! And you can do FT8 with low-priced gear like Mike **W7MWF**, who got on the air with his 'old as God' Icom IC-735 which is a clear old-timer radio. And at W7DK, FT8 is set up so after the contact the info on who your setup made contact with is shown on the screen so you know where they live and if you need their county or state for your list. And when there's no QSOs on Phone or CW, there's always the buzz on FT8". So in ham radio, you really can sometimes teach an old dog new tricks. **Kudos to Bob** for at least giving FT8 a one-time whirl, and being able to find some *positive aspects* about those who enjoy using FT8.

-Dave **W7UUU**

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



*Another "last Saturday" on August 31
for the monthly mini-swap meet*



*Ellen, **A17FP**, always with a smile and a kind word
hanging out with Manny **AD7MA** in the Lou Room*



*Big "Thumbs Up!" from Greg **KT1A***



*Mike **W7XH** visiting with Anne **N7ANN**
and the gang in HF room*

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

*All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU***

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Steve **AD7VL** (left) and Mike **W7MKE**
sorting out Salmon Run operator schedules



Patrick (not yet a ham) stopped by
the clubhouse on September 7th



Mike **W7MKE** gets rolling on 20m FT8 in the Flex
station while Gary **WG7X** watches the log



Bob **K7MXE** (left) catches up with Chuck **AC7QN** over
coffee behind the clubhouse

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



September 7th Tech class going strong in the clubhouse classroom!



Phil **KC7PS** and Nolan **K7GBM** visiting in the Lou Room



Gary **WG7X** and Randy **WB4SPB** chat it up out back by the garage



Walt **WA7SDY** checks into the 40m Noontime Net on the IC-7610 in the HF room

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All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



After the recent tower re-galvanizing work, the "do not climb" panels newly rebuilt & installed



David AC7KP, Lloyd AG7CX, and Phil K7PIA meet up for a chat in the Lou room



Photo by: W7MKE

David N4DJS and XYL Cathy NOIZU visited the club on September 7th, during a trip from Georgia to visit with their daughter who lives locally



Cathy NOIZU visits with President Mike W7XTZ

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU except as noted

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Photo by Anne N7ANN

Dave **W7UUU** takes the key at the IC-7610 station for an hour stint at CW for Salmon Run 2024 at W7DK



Phil **KC7PS**, Stephen **AD7AB**, and VP Adam **W2NCC** hanging out in the Lou Room on September 21



Mike **W7MKE** readies the HF Room patch bay for operations during Salmon Run



Dan **KD7SV** takes his turn at the IC-7610 SSB during Salmon Run 2024 on September 21

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos except as noted this page provided by Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Photo by Anne N7ANN

Peeking into the HF Room as Salmon Run gets underway for 2024 on September 21



While others contest, "Membership Mike" W7XH gears up to handle membership updates



The contest may be important, but Walt WA7SDY dutifully checks the club into important nets downstairs in the Lou Room station



Stephen AD7AB works out club lesson plans at his station in the Lou Room while radio operations take place all over in the Clubhouse on September 21

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos except as noted this page provided by Dave W7UUU

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Museum Curator Dan **KD7SV** (right) shows the museum to a non-ham visitor during Open House

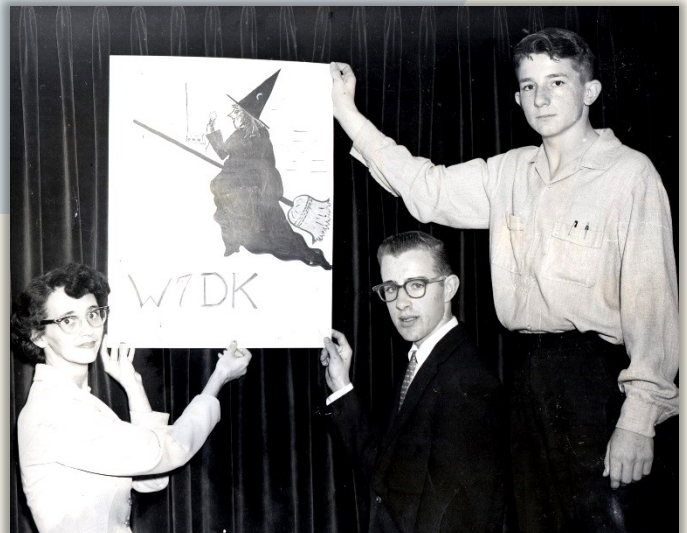


Photo by Anne N7ANN

Paul **W7PFU** and Adam **W2NCC** discuss pros and cons of antenna launchers



Warren **NG7G** operates the Flex during Salmon Run 2024 while Mike **W7MKE** works the log



Late addition to the Wayback pics: Barb Osborne **W7UYL** with OM Cliff **W7MFG**, Halloween party at W7DK October 1951. On right: unknown

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos except as noted this page provided by Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Jim **W7VK** models his new knit hat, an early birthday gift from friend Anne **N7ANN**



Yelm, WA visitor Michael **KK7VIK** stopped by for the first time to check the club out! Welcome!!



"The Gang's All Here" in the Lou Room, September 28th edition



Facilities Manager Adam **W2NCC** shows off the newly-painted "no climb" panels he just installed on the recently re-galvanized club 80' tower

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK

Frederick Hannes	KA7WGE
Robin Beckman	KK7JHT
Verna Lilly	KF7SCB
Chris Buck	K7CRB
Phillip Pia	K7PIA
Andrew Prisco	KJ7QBK
Leslie Levenson	K7LCL
David Ashley	W7GEL
Mary Atkinson	KE7TEY
Benjamin Foster	KI7JKX
Nicolas Adonis	KK7HMZ
Dennis Niles	WV7S
Gail Wolvin	KB7UON
Peter Markus	KC7YDW
Bruce Allen	N7MI
Philip Shideler	KC7PS
Maeve Dwyer	KL7KTK
John McMenamin	W7CBC
Armin Keen	N7JAJ
Ronald Suslick	K7WEO
Walter Morey	WA7SDY
Viridiana Quiroga	KK7JEI
Andrew Willms	KE7RTB
Kevin Ebat	W7QKR
Luke Stamm	KK7IJL

October Birthdays!!



*Phil **KC7PS**, Randy **WB4SPB**, President Mike **W7XTZ**, and Adam **W2NCC** chat in the backyard*



*Bigfoot SES co-conspirators BJ **KO7T** (the event manager, left), and Dave **W7UUU***

*Top photo by Dave **W7UUU***

*Bottom photo by Adam **W2NCC***



THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA!!

By Mike **W7MKE**

As most members of the Radio Club of Tacoma know, we are blessed to own our own clubhouse, and maintain a state-of-the art contingent of amateur radio transceivers and high-performance antennas that we make available not only to members, but to visitors (under supervision) as well.

In an effort to respond to member requests to have the Clubhouse open more often, the HF committee members decided they would make themselves available to open up on Thursday evenings between 18:00 and 21:00 (local Pacific time), so the members can familiarize themselves with the equipment or just try to make contacts using the club's radios. The primary radios in the HF room upstairs are the Icom IC-7610 and the Flex 6600.

Elmers are available to help work with any of the radios in the upstairs HF room. But of course, we



Photo by Mike **W7MKE**

also have the super-popular “entry level Icom” in the Lou room. If members want to become familiar with the IC-7300 downstairs, that can be arranged as well.

We plan to rotate the Lou Room radio, perhaps every quarter with other radios the club has, including other Flex radios, so that members can familiarize themselves with different technologies.

Thursday night, September 5th, we saw the upstairs HF stations again in action for fun and learning. In the photo below, seated at the controls of the Icom IC-7610 is Dave **KK7NYW** who uses a Yaesu FT-991A at his home station but, like many of us, does not have excellent antennas at home— so working the club radios gives him the opportunity to make interesting contacts using the Yagi at 80 feet or the other low-band antennas we offer.

We are hoping that this Thursday night offering of “radio time in the HF rooms” of the W7DK clubhouse will help not only members of the club, but also help introduce new hams to the potentials of HF operation. There will always be skilled club members on hand to “show you the ropes” and help work out the technical details. Modes? We do them all: CW, SSB, RTTY, FT4, FT8, you name it!

So come on by one Thursday evening soon, and see what the club has to offer for operators to get on the air with state-of-the art gear and great antennas.

-Mike **W7MKE**



MYTH or FACT: SASQUATCH IS A BIG PART of the lore of the great Pacific Northwest. Also known as Bigfoot, this legendary creature has been part of our local culture since the mid-20th century.

But it took until 1967 when [frame 352](#) of a film called the [Patterson-Gimlin](#) film made headlines supposedly depicting a real-life Sasquatch in the wild. From that day on, Bigfoot became a cultural icon around the Northwest and much of that passion exists to this day. In recent years, there has been a push by [Change.Org](#) to establish October 20th as “Sasquatch Awareness Day” in the US and Canada.

So this year, our POTA Director BJ Rollison **K07T** came up with a “beast of an idea”: W7DK will host our first annual Sasquatch Awareness Day Special Event Station! This **GLOBAL event** will be on the air beginning 00:00 on October 16th UTC and run until 23:59 on October 21 UTC

Call signs used will be **W7B**, **W7I**, **W7G**, **W7F**, **W7O**, and **W7T**. We will be running the modes: CW, SSB, FT4, FT8 PSK and RTTY on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands (No WARC bands). Club operations can be from your home shack (using one of the assigned 1x2 calls signs from the list) or from the Clubhouse station. Even though there are only 6 letters at play to spell “BIGFOOT”, BJ will coordinate multiple club operators to take on a given call sign at times that will work for multiple operators.

For those *working* the event, a handsome QSL is available for an SASE. The letter of the first station worked will be hand-filled by the Bigfoot Team. But for those wanting more than one letter confirmed, the full certificate is available. There is a nominal charge of \$5 to cover printing and postage. Applicants can apply for one or all letters. But to qualify for the letter “O”, applying stations **must work W7O on more than one mode, more than one band, or more than one UTC date to qualify.** And if you

work all seven stations, you get the coveted “Full Stomp” stamp on your certificate! Certificate applicants will also get a QSL for the event from the first W7x station worked.

All applications for either the QSL or the full certificate must send their QSO information (log) to:

Radio Club of Tacoma
Dept: Bigfoot
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

Be sure to include an SASE for the QSL card, or a check or money order for \$5 to cover costs for the certificate.

Make certain your return address is clearly shown.

This should be a really fun event! And who knows – maybe a Sasquatch image will be caught by a POTA operator and sent to the club to PROVE his existence!

See you all in the event! ■ -*editor*



Left: QSL Card for the event

Below: Full-color certificate with all letter stamps filled in and “Full Stomp” awarded

Final artwork subject to change





OCTOBER 4WAN (4th Wednesday Activity Night)



LEARN THE BASICS OF SOLDERING

On Wednesday, October 23 2024 from 7-9 PM local time, W7DK will be putting on a class on this fun topic that is open to all members.

As a group, we will build a simple electronic kit that involves soldering components to a small circuit board. All materials will be provided. The exact kit type and materials fee are being worked out at the time of this writing, but the cost for the class will be in the range of \$10 to \$15 just to cover materials.

There are limited seats—approximately 12, with sufficient seating and soldering equipment for a group this size. Reservations will be required

RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY OCTOBER 12th!

To sign up, please contact Adam W2NCC
w2ncc@W7DK.org or by phone 360-870-7894

Should be a fun class!! ■ -editor



Open House Reminder!

THIS IS JUST A WELCOMING & REMINDER

that the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma Clubhouse holds an open house on most Saturdays of the year (click [HERE](#) for exclusions) from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There's always a nice group of members but ALL visitors interested in amateur radio are welcome to stop by! You do not have to be a member or even a ham to visit us. Please be sure to sign the Visitor's Logbook in the kitchen, say hello to your Clubhouse Host, have a cup of coffee and a donut (always a nice assortment on hand). You may wander the building—visit the classroom, the downstairs "shack parlor" we call The Lou Room, and of course upstairs to see the main HF room and the [W7OS Doc Spike Memorial museum](#)—a living collection of vintage gear that regularly gets on the air.

The last Saturday of every month, we hold a mini flea market where members can sell their ham gear. But even non-members are eligible to dicker for deals and take home gear. And starting around 11:30, our club Chef Paul W7PFU serves up free chilidogs, or sometimes burgers or spaghetti at the chef's whim. We hope to see you stop by soon! ■ -editor

W7DK Clubhouse Kitchen on a recent Saturday



THE WAY BACK PHOTO BOOTH

Highlighted photos from the club's past

Researched & Compiled by the Editor



Photo of: Jim W7LS



Undated photo—ca. 1970 Front row L>R: unknown with hat, Chris Jensen **W7YX**,

Nick **WA7IVO** (**K7MO**), unknown YL, Kathy Freinwald **WA7WMD**

Top row on car: Janet Patjens **WA7WMB**, Randy Wells (no call), and Clay Freinwald **K7CR**

This group at the time was the club “fix-up crew”. Included as a major part of the group was the person who took the photo, Nick’s dad Joe **WA7RWK**. The old station wagon was Joe’s and they called it the “dump car” because it was used like a truck to take stuff to the dump. The clubhouse foundation was built largely by Joe Winter. **Also note:** the white house behind the tower. The club purchased that very rundown home after the elderly owner passed, and bought it just for the land. Joe **WA7RWK** (among others) arranged to have it taken down. The lot was then used to create the parking lot we know today -Dave **W7UUU**

THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

Always check the W7DK website for latest news



W7DK

September		October, 2024				November	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
40 September	September	1 Tuesday Nite Net	2 07:00pm Board meeting	3	4	5 Open House 10-2	
6 10m Social Net	7 Slow Speed CW Net	8 07:00pm VE License Exam ... Tuesday Nite Net	9	10	11	12 01:00pm General meeting ... Open House 10-2	
13 10m Social Net	14 Slow Speed CW Net	15 Tuesday Nite Net	16	17	18	19 Open House 10-2	
20 10m Social Net	21 Slow Speed CW Net	22 Tuesday Nite Net	23 4th Weds. Activity	24	25	26 Last Saturday hotdogs and Mini Swap Meet	
43 POTA St. Edwards	Fall 2024 Classic Exchange CW Event						
27 10m Social Net	28 Slow Speed CW Net	29	30	31	November	November	
44							
Recurring Special Contests All Categories ...							

Did you know?

October is the tenth month of the year in the [Julian](#) and [Gregorian calendars](#). Its length is 31 days. The eighth month in the old [calendar of Romulus](#) c. 750 BC, October retained its name from [Latin](#) and [Greek](#) *ôctō* meaning "eight") after January and February were inserted into the calendar that had originally been created by the Romans. But [Halloween](#) is the day most of us know and love most about the month!





HUGE THANKS TO Mr. Bruce Horn, **WA7BNM** for publishing his "[Contest Calendar](#)" for all these many years... a truly wonderful resource for finding virtually every ham radio contest on Earth that might be happening, in most any mode and most any region in the world. Follow the link to take you to the site, then sort through the various options to find the specifics

of every upcoming event. For now, here's the **WA7BNM** Contest Calendar for the this month. Click the calendar below to visit Bruce's site directly.



October 2024

+ German Telegraphy Contest	0700Z-1000Z, Oct 3
+ SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Oct 3
+ Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest	0600Z, Oct 5 to 0559Z, Oct 6
+ Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0600Z, Oct 5 to 0600Z, Oct 6
+ California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 5 to 2200Z, Oct 6
+ Peanut Power QRP Sprint	2200Z-2359Z, Oct 6
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 8
+ 10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
+ Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 12 to 1559Z, Oct 13
+ QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Oct 12
+ Nevada QSO Party	0300Z, Oct 12 to 2100Z, Oct 13
+ Oceania DX Contest, CW	0600Z, Oct 12 to 0600Z, Oct 13
+ Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	1200Z, Oct 12 to 1200Z, Oct 13
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Oct 12 to 2359Z, Oct 13
+ Arizona QSO Party	1500Z, Oct 12 to 0500Z, Oct 13
+ Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 12 to 2200Z, Oct 13
+ South Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Oct 12 to 1800Z, Oct 13
+ PODXS 070 Club 160m Great Pumpkin Sprint	2000Z, Oct 12 to 2000Z, Oct 13
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 14
+ AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z, Oct 16
+ NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, Oct 17
+ YBDXPI FT8 Contest	0000Z, Oct 19 to 2359Z, Oct 20
+ 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	0001Z, Oct 19 to 2359Z, Oct 20
+ New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 19 to 0200Z, Oct 20
+ Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 19 to 1459Z, Oct 20
+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 19 to 1500Z, Oct 20
+ Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 20
+ Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 20 to 0100Z, Oct 21
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Oct 20 to 0100Z, Oct 21
+ ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Oct 21 to 2359Z, Oct 25
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 23
+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 26 to 2359Z, Oct 27



In Memoriam

Silent Keys & Friends Remembered



In memory of

Rich Manson

N7ANF

RICH MANSON **N7ANF** (member #395) joined the Radio Club of Tacoma on May 8, 1957 and was one of the longtime members of the club—he had been active at events up until quite recently, when he took ill. He was a super friendly guy, and always willing to help out any way he could. He was awarded the coveted Doc Spike award in 2000 for his contributions to the club. In the photo below, left, with member Anne **N7ANN**, he was a regular every year at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup (formerly the Puyallup Fair) running the W7DK booth. Rich attended meetings regularly, checked into the weekly 2m net, and was frequently at the clubhouse, very often with his ex-wife but good friend (in later years), Arlene (member #2027, non-ham). He will be missed by many. RIP Rich! -Dave **W7UUU**



Photo: Dave W7UUU



Photo: W7DK Archives

THE W7DK ELMER BOARD

Do you have a skill or tool to help new hams?



W7DK

YOU! YES YOU! Do YOU have a skill you could pass on to new amateur radio operators? Do you possess a skill or piece of gear that you're willing to share with others to fix antenna problems, diagnose noise issues, drive a ground rod, teach Morse, help teach technical topics? If the answer is YES you too could be a W7DK Elmer!! Let any

officer know what your skills are or how you could help new hams get a leg up on the hobby. And if you're one of those already on the list, are there any changes we should be aware of? If so please hit the email address (found bottom of page on the right) and let us know so we can update the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma "Elmer Board".

NEW HAMS OR MEMBERS: If you are looking for help, and NEED AN ELMER to help guide your way, use this table! Find the skill you need on the left, then look for an Elmer Provider of that skill on the right and reach out to them. ALL of these Elmer's have committed to helping so please don't hesitate.

Elmer Board

Do you need help with some area in ham radio?

List of members' areas of interest.

1. Technical questions, Classes
2. Help with Code
3. License Examinations
4. Antenna and Station planning
5. Antenna and Tower erection
6. Buying new or used equipment
7. Equipment repair
8. Understanding and operating your equipment
9. DX and Contests
10. Club and ARRL activities
11. Using test equipment
12. IRLP, Digital, SDR, ARPS, Winlink, Vara, Satellite
13. Understanding How Electronic Circuits Work

Name/Call Sign /Phone Number/ Topic

Adam W2NCC 360-870-7894 (4,5,6,7,11)
 Dave N7HT 253-363-1692 (1,2,4,6,8)
 Steve AF7YD 253-988-087(1,2,7,10,11,13)
 Dave W7UUU 253-820-0890 (2,4,6,9)
 Al N7OMS 253-495-9068 (10,12)
 Mike W7XTZ 253-405-8095 (6,8,10)
 Stephen AD7AB 253-212-9437 (1,3,4,12)
 Randy WB4SPB 253-761-9391 (2)
 Phil K7PIA 253-307-4781 (9,10,12)



The Day I Had Lightning in my Bedroom!

FEATURE Article!

W7UUU

**“The massive
spark flew from my
radio desk clear
across the room to
the only ground in
the space... an AC
outlet, 12 feet
away!”**

*Artistic rendering by W7UUU of my actual attic bedroom as a new General
in 1975... a largely-unfinished space and pretty rustic architecture.*

Continued next page

The Day I Had Lightning in my Bedroom!

FEATURE Article!

W7UUU

IN THE SUMMER OF 1975, I HAD JUST EARNED my General License and became **WB7AWK** (after being a Novice Class as **WN7AWK**). I had one Elmer at the time, Hank, **W7UD** (SK), who was in many ways a second Dad for me. My own father was very dour and distant and didn't take too kindly to my ham radio interests, although he mostly tolerated my radios and antennas on the house.

At age 14, in August of that year, I asked Dad to take me to the main branch of the Tacoma Public Library so I

the day. It's important to note that in the greater Seattle area, lightning is a pretty *rare* thing. It's been this way since I was a kid. Folks then, just as now, would go out on their porch to watch a lightning storm just as if it were a Fourth of July Extravaganza fireworks display!

Dad didn't seem to be concerned about the predicted storm, so off we went to the downtown Tacoma Library branch just after lunch that day. I spent the ensuing hours learning as much as I could about ham radio and electronics theory, loving every minute of my time spent



My childhood home January 1975—my bedroom window is highlighted

could spend a few hours reading books about ham radio, and dream of owning amazing rigs and antennas I saw in ads in the back issues of The ARRL Handbook, and all the other great books on ham radio that you could find in a library back then. I loved to spend a Saturday afternoon doing this, and Dad was used to dropping me off and coming back late in the day to take me home in time for dinner.

But on this one particular August day, the TV and radio news both warned of "severe thunderstorms" later in

in the stacks.

But at the appointed hour of my pickup, around 4 PM, the sky had turned decidedly dark to the West, where home was in the little town of Fircrest, Washington, some five miles away.

As Dad drove, I saw the sky darken *alarmingly* towards home... going nearly black in the clouds. The wind had picked up as well. Sure enough, not long before arriving home, powerful thunder and bright lightning was everywhere around us in the sky, flashing and thundering all at the same instant.

The Day I Had Lightning in my Bedroom!

FEATURE Article!

W7UUU

I was scared! — I knew enough to know that ham radio gear and lightning didn't mix, and I knew my Dad wasn't a very ham-friendly person. The second we parked in the driveway, I rushed to my bedroom. Earlier, knowing a storm was coming, before we left I had disconnected my PL-259 coax connector from my simple homebrew tuner, but I had just left it hanging behind the radios.

My transmitter was a Globe Scout 680A used only for CW, my receiver was a Hallicrafters S-85. Both were all-tube rigs but I was still concerned with static discharge damage.

While out hitting garage sales with Hank in May, I found all of that gear on a table, along with a box of parts and accessories, for only \$35. Hank fronted me the money and we loaded it in the car, but I couldn't have it until I'd mowed enough lawns to pay Hank back, which took all of two weeks. I cherished that radio lineup, as it was my first "serious ham radio gear" after starting out with a Heathkit HW-7 QRP radio that I built from kit form myself back in January (during the snowstorm seen in the photo). I didn't want to lose it to a nearby lightning strike!

My shack was in my rather rustic upstairs bedroom. Antennas were a 40-meter dipole between trees, and a 75-foot random wire from my window out to a tree across the yard. I fed it with a basic homebrew tuner I made with parts from the box. But I had no station ground—there were no cold water pipes available, and directly below my second-story window was a concrete slab. But even if it were dirt, I didn't have a ground rod much less have a way to drive one in. So I just did without! RF burns became a normal part of my ham radio life, especially on 80 and 40 trying to load that wire with my tuner.

The outlet I used for my gear was not grounded either, so the radios couldn't even be tied to that. However, across the room was a single 3-prong outlet that Dad hired an electrician to install so I could have a space heater in the winter. The house was very old but by the time Dad hired the work done, 3-prong outlets were standard and the electrician ran the circuit right to the power panel to meet code, and used a 3-prong ground-

ed outlet as was required by then.

As I dashed into the house, I could hear the rolling thunder all around me as the storm raged, with lightning bolts so overlapping that the thunder came more as a solid roar at times.

Not wanting to alert Dad to my concerns, I tried to get in the house as quickly as I could, and I then raced up to my attic bedroom.

As I hit the top of the stairs, in the nearly dark room, I saw and heard a horrendous **flash** as an extremely high-intensity static charge leapt from the PL-259 just behind the transmitter. The massive spark flew from my radio desk clear across the room to the only available ground... that 3-prong AC outlet only 12 feet away!

I literally had lightning right in my bedroom!

It was terrifying, and the flash carried with it a deafening *snap* that I assumed was its baby thunder sound. I didn't know what to do—what *could* I do? What if another discharge happened and it caught the house on fire somehow? Or what if it hit ME? I hid just below the top step (there was no door into my room) and peeked into the room in terror but it never happened again, and the storm soon subsided. The next day, I called Hank and asked him if he could teach me how to install a ground rod, which he did—and gave me an antenna switch with a grounding position. From that day on even through to today, I disconnect and ground my antennas any time a storm might be expected or when I am away from home.

I never told Dad what happened. If he had known, my ham radio career would have ended right there, that day, with all my ham gear going in the nearest dumpster. To this day it ranks as one of the scariest things I've ever witnessed. He died at 57 the next year, and never knew of my scary adventure.

Did something like this ever happen to you? If so, I'd love to hear about it—just click the email link down below.

-Dave W7UUU

HOMEBREW & KITS CORNER

Radio homebrew projects both large & small



ELSEWHERE IN THIS MONTH'S BARK, in the [Frugal Ham column](#), you may have read about my exploits with the amazing (and quite inexpensive) [QRP Labs QDX Digital Transceivers](#) sold in kit form or as fully assembled. As stated on the [company's website](#), "The QRP

Labs Digital transceiver is a feature-packed, high performance, five low-HF bands (80, 60, 40, 30 and 20m) or six high-HF bands (20, 17, 15, 12, 11 and 10m) 5-watt digital modes transceiver kit, including an embedded SDR receiver, a 24-bit USB sound card, CAT control, and a synthesized VFO with TCXO reference.

The QDX transmits a single signal—it is not an SSB modulator with associated unwanted sideband and residual carrier, or intermodulation due to amplifier non-linearity. QDX outputs a pure single signal".

Output power is definitely in the QRP range—4 to 5 watts typically. Both of my units, (one for the low bands and one for the high bands) output just over 4 watts. The power supply can be built for either 9 volts or 12 volts. Of my two QDX transceivers I built one for 12, and the other I did not build but bought used and assembled, also runs on 12. On the rare occasions I run them from a typical 13.8 ham shack power supply, I'm careful to use a "[12 volt buck converter](#)" (for this use, it's essentially just a 12vdc regulator) to reduce the 13.8 down to a precise 12 volts. The QDX is *not* known for dealing well with

over-voltage. 9 volts means 9 and 12 means 12. If you put 12v on the 9v unit or 14v on the 12v unit, the power transistors will very likely pop and need to be replaced.

The QDX is sold as a kit for only \$69—although it's available for a bit more fully assembled and tested (add \$45). But know that all of the SMD chips are preinstalled on the underside of the board, so you don't have to solder them in yourself. All the kit components are "through-lead" components—resistors, capacitors, and inductors. In the case of both kits you will need to



Top side of PCB showing inductors, transformer, etc. Photo: QRP Labs

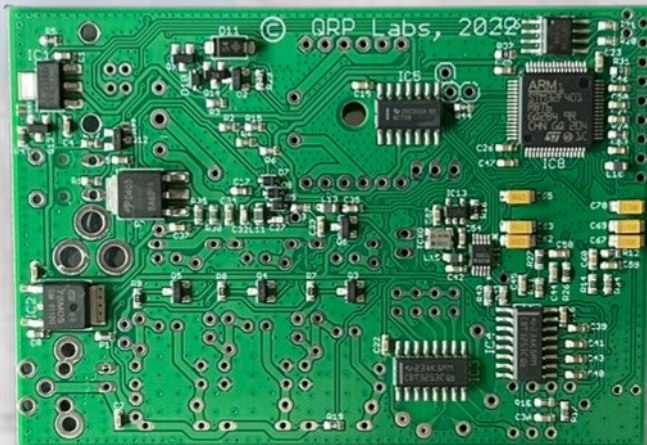
as well as a "binocular" transformer used in the power supply section of the main PCB.

While I would not characterize the construction as difficult, I do *not* consider the QDX transceivers a good candidate for beginners at soldering and kit building. If that describes you, it's best to line up a helper who has experience building kits like this. The board is small, and packed with components. Good building skills will be required, and it really helps to have a [PCB vise for your](#) workbench to hold the board, and a [head-worn magnifier](#). Those blue links are what I use myself and bought on Amazon (and no, I have no affiliation—this isn't a monetized publication!). Having good tools on hand always makes any kit-building project go just that much better.

While the QDX is very much an impressive little digital

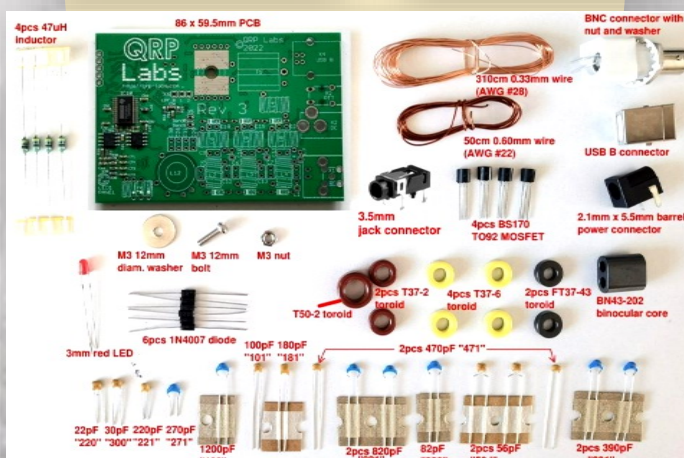
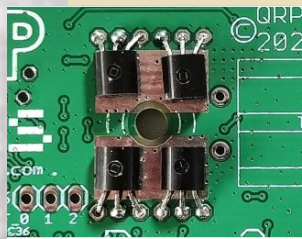
HOMEBREW & KITS CORNER

Radio homebrew projects both large & small



Above: Underside showing preinstalled SMD parts

Below: 4 RF output transistors and final heat sink



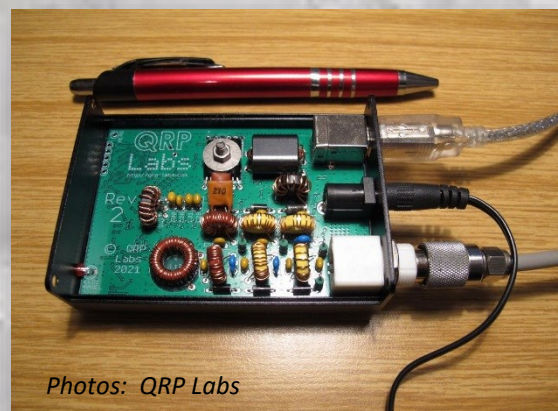
Here's the inventory sheet in the assembly manual. All things considered, there really aren't that many parts that need to be installed in the QDX. All the real "heavy lifting" is in the microprocessor chip and all the other supporting SMD parts that come preinstalled

Photos: QRP Labs

transceiver, and works hand-in-hand with all of the modes supported by WSJT-X (FT and JT modes, among others) as well as FT8-variant JS8Call, and a few Fldigi modes like RTTY and Olivia, it's not suitable for any on/off keyed modes such as CW as it does not have any click-removing RF envelope shaping. It's also not suitable for any phase shift modes such as PSK-31 or modes involving multiple concurrent tones such as Winlink.

But for super-portable POTA / SOTA operation with a small LiPo or similar compact battery, EFHW antenna, and super compact tuner like the Elecraft T1 (that's what I use), the QDX pretty much allows you to have a "digital shack in your pocket".

-Dave **W7UUU**



Photos: QRP Labs



ALFRED VAIL:
THE FORGOTTEN
HERO OF MORSE
CODE

When people today talk about Morse code or as hams most often call it, CW, the name Samuel Morse usually pops up first. That makes sense—after all, it's named after him! But here's the thing: while Morse might have been the brains behind the idea of using electrical signals to send coded messages over a wire, he didn't exactly do it alone. That's where Alfred Vail comes in, a guy who doesn't get nearly enough credit for what he did. In fact, I'd wager many, if not most, hams have never even heard of Vail – even those who had to pass a code test to get their ticket back in the day!

Alfred Vail was born into a well-to-do family in Morristown, New Jersey, in 1807. Vail was well-educated and had a background in machinery and metalworks, which played a big role in his later work with Morse and his code. He met Samuel Morse while studying at the University of the City of New York (which is now [NYU](#)), and their meeting was kind of a big deal—very much like the startup collaborations of the modern tech and computer era.

But they were never really friends like we would think of today. In my research for this article, I

found scant evidence of this – just a “camaraderie during the early stages of their work together”. Like many such collaborations, there were certainly tensions (think Jobs and Wozniak of Apple fame).

But it was very much a vibrant business and engineering relationship.

In 1837, Morse was trying to develop his telegraph system but didn't have the bankroll or even the technical know-how to get it off the ground. He had a great idea, but needed help to bring it to fruition. Vail, seeing the potential in Morse's idea, agreed to fund the project in exchange for a partnership (Vail's wealthy father was the one who actually ponied up the funds... \$2,000 – which would be over half a million dollars today). It was one of those win-win situations, and Vail immediately got to work improving on what Morse had created.

Morse's original version of his code was in reality quite cumbersome, compared to where it would eventually end up. It was a clunky system of numbers that corresponded to words in a printed codebook and was meant to be read visually as dots and dashes on printed tape from a spring-powered geared machine, much like a “ticker tape” printer. The receiving operator would decode the numbers that were sent, then look in his “answer key” to determine which word each of the numeric codes meant. Not exactly user-friendly, right? Vail saw this for what it was and knew it needed some *serious* reworking if it was *ever* going to be practical.

The visual decoding approach didn't work out as





Morse had planned—it was very slow – not only in the translation from numbers to finding the associated word in the codebook, but just in reading the dots and dashes on the paper tape. The Morse inker often dried out and the long and short marks were faint. Other times, there would be blobs of dusty ink obscuring parts of the message.

Telegraph operators soon realized that they could decode the messages much more efficiently by *listening to the distinct patterns of short and long sounds made by the telegraph* – the “dits and dahs” we as hams say today, but back then were “clacks and spaces between clacks” from a brass telegraph sounder. “Beeping” Morse code was many years in the future, not developed until well into the 20th century when electronic oscillators became possible.

This shift from visual to auditory decoding wasn’t something Morse anticipated, but Vail, as his collaborator, played a big role in refining the system and adapting it to the practical needs of telegraph operators—abandoning the printed version entirely. It was Vail who helped streamline the code and contributed to the realization that Morse code was *far* more effective when decoded by ear. That was his genius touch.

But he did even more than that. Vail took Morse’s

idea and simplified it, which was the real game-changer. He realized that using a code of dots and dashes to represent *actual letters directly*, rather than numbers to be translated using a “codebook”, would make things *way faster* and much easier for receiving operators. And here’s where Vail really showed his smarts: he figured out that some letters are used more often than others. So, he assigned the simplest and shortest codes to the most common letters. For example, “E” became just a single dot, and “T” became a single dash.

This made the system quicker and more efficient—a huge improvement over Morse’s clunky system of numeric codes.

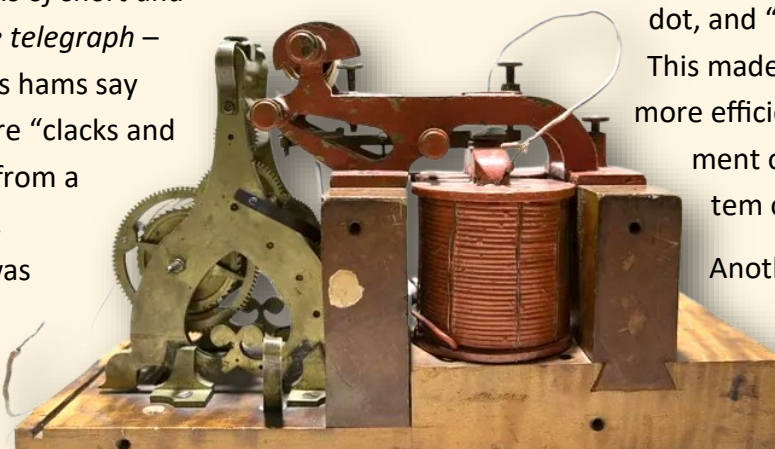
Another fun improvement

was the letter “V”. Vail intentionally made it be “dit dit dit dah”.

Think in your head the opening notes to Beethoven’s famous 5th Symphony, which is de-

noted in writing by the Roman numeral “V”. Does it not sound truly as “dit dit dit dah”?! To Vail, it was a powerful mnemonic device, which made it pretty hard to miss the letter “V” when heard! (I bet many who read this, even if they don’t do CW will now remember the letter V forever!)

But Vail didn’t stop with just the letters; he also tackled the way numbers were coded. Morse’s original approach to coding numbers was pretty awk-



Alfred Vail’s Morse receiver/printer used for the 1844 long distance demonstration of Morse Code from Baltimore to Washington DC.

Photo: Cornell University



ward. It used a hodgepodge of long and cumbersome sequences that didn't flow well. There was no clear pattern to the number characters like we know today. Vail saw this and knew it had to be fixed. So, he developed a much more logical and systematic approach to number coding. He created the orderly system we still use, where numbers are represented by a consistent set of five dots and dashes. This change made numbers much more straightforward and far easier to learn and to remember, further streamlining the whole Morse code system. Even non-CW hams can get it: "....." (five dits) was the number 5. "-...." was 6, "--..." was 7, "---.." was 8, and so on. Super simple! (Numbers were the first thing I taught myself in Morse when I was 13 years old, just because the sequence is so simple to send and recognize when heard).

In essence, Vail didn't just improve the code for letters—he made sure the *entire coding system*, including numbers and even basic punctuation, was as efficient and practical as possible. And it's the system we still use today as hams. Very little of Morse's original code is left, in fact!

Vail didn't stop at improving the code.

He also led in the design, building, and refining of the telegraph hardware itself. On January 11, 1838, the two men gave a public demonstration of their system using gear of Vail's design and construction at the industrial ma-

chinery lab and factory called [Speedwell Ironworks](#), owned by Vail's family. It was a big hit with the attending audience, and it showed that their telegraph was more than just a neat trick—it was a true innovation in communication.

So what was the very first message ever sent over wires using Morse (Vail!) Code? The oft-quoted message, "What hath God wrought?" was NOT the first message sent – in fact, that wasn't sent until years later, on May 24, 1844, during the first 'long distance' demonstration of Morse code from Washington D.C. to Baltimore, Maryland. During the January 1838 demo, a much less dramatic message was sent over a 2-mile wire from Morse to Vail...

That message was **"A patient waiter is no loser"**

Believe it or not – *that's what was actually sent!*



Vail's original Morse key



(There are *scads* of internet sites that have this wrong—if you doubt this, do your research carefully!) It's no wonder it was the *much later* and more famous message that was more remembered than the actual “first message”! No consistent record of *why* that odd message or even *what it meant* exactly seems to exist... just a few weak suppositions not worth noting here.

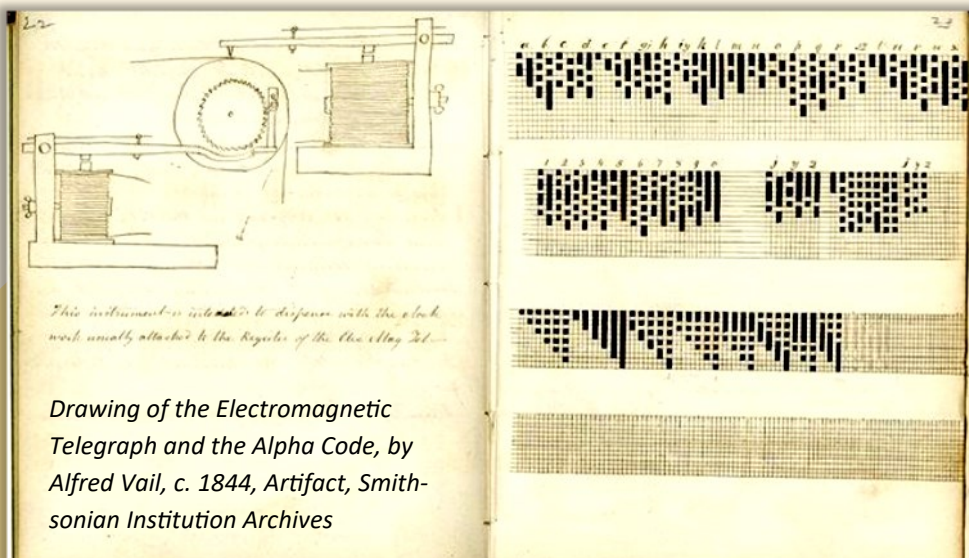
Vail's Unsung Legacy: Unfortunately, Vail didn't get the recognition he deserved during his lifetime. Morse, being the much more charismatic public figure ([like Steve Jobs](#) or [Hidetsugu Yagi](#)), took most of the credit for the technology and Vail largely drifted into obscurity.

But those who know, *know*. Vail's work on the code

and the telegraph was *vital* to its success. Without his improvements, Morse code might not have become the widely used system it became and to some extent, still is today. And it very likely would have died out entirely, long before amateur radio became a world-wide hobby.

Sadly, Morse took all the credit and made all the money. Ultimately, Mr. Vail left the telegraph industry he was so instrumental in building in 1848, while

working at a low-paying job (\$900 a year or a mere \$32,200 a year in today's dollars) as a superintendent of the [Washington and New Orleans Telegraph Company](#) (the second oldest telegraph company in the US at the time). Despite all the hard work, inspiration, and invention, Samuel Morse's name went on the 11 most lucrative telegraph patents leaving Vail with *nothing*. Despite Vail's 8 patents relating to telegraphy, none were substantial enough to amount to financial reward for him.



Drawing of the Electromagnetic Telegraph and the Alpha Code, by Alfred Vail, c. 1844, Artifact, Smithsonian Institution Archives

And another fun fact: this first public demonstration of “Mr. Morse's Telegraph” not only didn't use Morse's original code, it *didn't even use any of Morse's own hardware!* The Morse-designed and built printer had a hard time printing dots and dashes legibly, and Morse's key was awkward to use. So instead, the demo was done entirely using the vastly-improved Vail telegraph wired receiver/printer and key that Vail had developed, which very closely resembles straight keys used to this day.



Vail's parting message and final letter to Morse

read in part, "I have made up my mind to leave the telegraph to take care of itself, since it cannot take care of me. I shall, in a few months, leave Washington for New Jersey, and bid adieu to the subject of the telegraph for some more profitable business"

Alfred Vail passed away in 1859 (only aged 51 years), but his legacy lives on in every dit and dah tapped out on a key or keyer in ham shacks today. He was a true innovator who saw the potential in an idea and made it a success. So, next time you think of Morse code, remember there's more to the story than just Samuel Morse. *Much* more. Alfred Vail played a *huge* role, and he deserves a nod of appreciation for making communication history – what would eventually become a communication mode that many of us as hams still use daily.



Vail's final resting place (on the left). St. Peter's Episcopal Churchyard, Morristown, NJ. Photo: Daniel Sheron

Inset: Vail family's Speedwell Ironworks building in Morristown, NJ that is the birthplace of the electric telegraph

In the end, Vail was more than just a sidekick

to Morse—he was a key player in one of the most important technological advancements of the 19th century. So here's to Alfred Vail, the guy who helped make the dots and dashes of Morse code something that really clicked (OK – that's a *bad* pun!). "73 Alfred – catch you down the log, OM"

-Dave W7UUU

VAIL-MORSE CONTROVERSY.

Stephen Vail on His Father's Claim to Telegraph Invention.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

Mr. Morse's knowledge of the invention of the telegraph has been acquired entirely by hearsay, and mainly, if not altogether, from his father, whose vanity enabled him to forget all sense of gratitude, honor, and justice to Alfred Vail, his friend, benefactor, co-inventor, and the maker of the fame and renown with which the name of S. F. B. Morse was, and is, so wrongly credited. Morse allowed no opportunity to escape in which he might obliterate all record of Alfred Vail's connection with the invention.

Excerpt from a New York Times Letter to the Editor written by Stephen Vail, son of Alfred Vail, expressing his views on how his father's legacy as the true inventor was stolen from him. "I have an abundance of evidence that Morse's treatment of my father with reference to the invention [...] was characterized by ingratitude and duplicity which stopped at nothing that could stifle all evidence that Alfred Vail had aught to do with the invention beyond that of furnishing some money to S. F. B. Morse". ■ -editor

Full 1904 NY Times letter link: [\[CLICK HERE\]](#)

Excerpted and formatted for brevity of space.

COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

A look back at the cool gear of the past

By Dave W7UUU

THIS MONTH'S COOL OLD RIG is something that's both pretty common, but at the same time quite special! It is the Eico 720 HF transmitter, introduced in 1958 by [EICO](#) ([Electronic Instrument Company](#)). Originally founded in 1945 to offer electronic test gear in kit form, EICO quickly moved into the Hi-Fi and amateur radio markets. The 720 transmitter originally sold for \$79.95 (\$857 in today's dollars) in kit form, or fully assembled for \$119.95. It covers the standard ham bands from 80 through 10, including 11 meters (which was still a ham band until September 11, 1958).

Tube lineup was more sophisticated than many "Novice transmitters" of the era and included a 6CL6 electron-coupled Colpitts crystal oscillator, 6AQ5 buffer & frequency multiplier, 6AQ5 clamp tube (screen-grid regulator to help prevent key clicks), and a single 6146 final amplifier tube. Rectifier was a 5AR4. Power plate input power was 90 watts (can be adjusted down to the 75 watt Novice limit), for roughly 50 watts of output power.

The 720 was CW only but EICO sold a matching modulator called the 730 for putting the rig on AM Fone. While being crystal-controlled, EICO eventually came out with a suitable VFO in 1961. Dubbed the 722, the VFO styling was not a match for the 720 transmitter—most likely to make it generically appealing for use with any number of rock-bound rigs of the era.

The chassis was beautifully copper-plated, and offered superb TVI suppression, freedom from key clicks and chirp, and the overall build quality and ease of service made it one of the best "Novice era" transmitters of all time. Like other transmitters in this class, the ease of adding VFO frequency control and an AM modulator provided for a smooth path for hams to move from Novice class to General or above.

But the EICO 720 featured for this article isn't just one from a ham fest. It actually belonged to Ham Radio legend Bob Heil [K9EID](#) (SK) and was featured in one of Bob's Ham Nation [YouTube broadcasts](#). Originally

shown on December 10, 2014, [episode 176](#), Bob takes his viewers through the operation of the complete 720, 722, and 730 lineup. He kept the rig on the air in regular use on 80 and 40 meter AM nets and QSOs. Finally just a couple years ago, Bob decided to put all three units up for sale for \$900 (certainly the high end of the market for such gear, but given the provenance, well worth it!). Nick [K7MO](#) of the club was the purchaser, and asked Bob to visibly autograph all three pieces. I recently visited Nick's shack, and this article is the result. Nick is hoping to one day soon get the rig back on the air in his main shack area—and we can all try to catch him on the air running this great piece of ham history.

-Dave [W7UUU](#)

Photos by W7UUU



EICO 720 Transmitter



EICO 730 Modulator



MIGHTY DK! QSO REPORT

Reporting all the HF QSO action from the club



W7DK

EACH MONTH in the Bark, the Radio Club of Tacoma recognizes the members and guests who have made non-contest QSOs using the HF stations at our clubhouse. [Saturday Open House](#), especially, is a time when members have access to this equipment. Why not sit down at one of our operating desks and make a contact or two? Assistance is almost always available for those unfamiliar with the equipment, and if your license class doesn't permit HF operation, ask the denizens of the HF Room or the Saturday clubhouse host to help you find a suitably-licensed control operator to sit with you. It's a feather in the club's hat for the call sign of The Mighty DK to be heard on the airwaves. So get on the air and get your name in the Bark! (Don't forget to *enter your call sign as the operator* into our logging program.) ■ -editor

Clubhouse QSOs during this period:

NAME	CALL	QSOs
Mike	W7XH	155
Mike	W7MKE	49
Gary	WG7X	22
David	AC7KP	16
Nathan	KK7QND	12
Bob	K7MXE	8
Dave	KK7NYW	8
Randy	WB4SPB	5



Above: HF Room Flex 6600 & Mercury III

Below: HF Room Icom IC-7610 & KPA-500



Photos this page provided by

Dave **W7UUU**

THE SALMON RUN

Washington State QSO Party

W7UUU

SALMON RUN 2024 IS NOW IN THE LOGBOOKS!

Commencing 1600Z Saturday September 21st, and ending 2359Z (5PM PDT) Sunday (with an off time between local midnight and 9AM Sunday), this event is one of the most popular QSO Parties in ham radio every year. It's also W7DK's biggest annual fundraiser event as well—where members pledge a dollar amount for how many counties they think they'll work, and if they will achieve a "Clean Sweep" garnering all 39 state counties (which can be rather difficult some years!).

The scores are in:

1131 QSOs, 104 multipliers, claimed score 253,512
(includes 1000 bonus points for working Sponsor station W7DX on two modes)

Says Randy, WB4SPB, keeper of the club's logs:

"This is our highest QSO total since 2016, but only a slightly higher score than last year because the proportion of CW QSOs is so low.

We missed Vermont and 6 Canadian multipliers. We worked 23 DX stations (good for 10 multipliers), and a **Clean Sweep** of WA counties was achieved before the end of the day Saturday. We made at least 2 QSOs with every county (many many more in the larger counties of course)".

List of operators:

K7IPT, K7PIA, KD7SV, KG7UMZ, KK7QND, N7OMS, N9MII, NG7G, W2NCC, W7ITL, W7MKE, W7UUU, W7XH, W7XTZ, W8NGS, and WB4SPB

A big thanks to all for contributing to Salmon Run 2024 and also to all those who pledged donations to help keep our awesome HF station and club up and running!

W7DK QSO Breakdown

By mode	
Qs	Mode
166	CW
965	SSB

By band	
Qs	Band
80	80
6	6
229	40
350	20
153	15
313	10

By Operator

Qs	Op
4	KG7UMZ
6	W7ITL
7	NG7G
16	W8NGS
16	KK7QND
22	KD7SV
26	N7OMS
27	K7IPT
30	W7UUU
77	N9MII
84	W7XTZ
89	W2NCC
133	W7MKE
160	WB4SPB
189	K7PIA
245	W7XH



W7DK HF Room—Saturday about 10:45 AM.
L>R: Dan **KD7SV** on 40 SSB at the IC-7610 station; Dave **W7UUU** awaits his 11:00 start on 40 CW; Warren **NG7G** operating SSB on the Flex 6600 station as Mike **W7MKE** handles N3FJP logging duties.

Photo by: Anne **N7ANN**

THE SALMON RUN

Washington State QSO Party

W7UUU

RESULTS

OFFICIAL SUMMARY REPORT FROM 2024 SALMON RUN
Manager, Mike **W7MKE** follows:

[The Salmon Run](#) for many years has been an important event for The Radio Club of Tacoma. It is sponsored by the [Western Washington DX Club](#) (W7DX) that calls it a “contest”, not a QSO party—although their website for the Salmon Run calls it the Washington State QSO Party. Whatever you call it, it is a contest event that is important to our club and we like to play as hard as we can within the limits of allowing newbies to try their hand at contesting. In fact we encourage that! Randy, **WB4SPB**, who tends our logs will give the numbers for this year’s contest which were very respectable [*posted on prior page—ed.*].

RCT is not a serious contest club as we try to allow new operators and those who may have had their license for some years but never contested to have a chance to work one, allowing them the opportunity to experience contesting. This is not conducive to “keeping the rate up” which is the call of the serious testers. But is very helpful for newbies to learn.

All that aside, The Salmon Run is important to the club for another reason. It has long been linked to the club as a fund raiser. I looked at some records from 2009 – 2011 and the fundraiser garnered about \$5000 more-or-less during those years and membership hovered around 300 same as today. Over the last few years, adjusted for inflation, we are still receiving about the same amounts from our generous members. This is so important because this fund raiser accounts for about 1/3 of our needed income for the year—and this appears to be pretty consistent since at least 2010 as operating costs and income have been pretty consistent, with income being somewhat more than expenses allowing our reserves to grow over the years by modest amounts each year on average, largely due to the Salmon Run Fund Raiser.

This year I had the opportunity to co-ordinate and schedule the actual contest operators and to be sure the two radios that we were going to use were properly set up. It’s a bit of a stretch to say I did the set-up as many smart hams helped me accomplish that chore, and it is just a given that experienced hams each have their own idea of

a proper setup so one can only do so much, and then step back and let it go!

This year, contesting went smoothly with those who chose to operate getting a chance to sit at a radio and help in creating our rather respectable score. The much-desired clean sweep of all 39 counties was completed at about 4pm on Saturday with Pacific County being the final county needed.

This year only one current member took off to activate rare counties. Chuck **AC7QN** met up with former member Rich **KR7W** to once again activate the WW7LW club call. It seems that fewer members are doing expeditions to other counties now but that may change as several members are getting involved in POTA activations, so they have the gear and the know-how to strike out to those rare counties. Go forth and activate!

Thanks to everyone who helped with the contest. And most importantly, I give a big thank you to those members who use this contest and time to donate a little more of their hard-earned money to our club to keep it healthy and able to do many things for many members.

And I should remind all: we are still accepting pledge forms and donations for the 2024 Salmon Run fundraising event!!

73 for now—Mike **W7MKE**



Photo: W7UUU

S.R. Manager Mike **W7MKE** sets up for a change of bands

W7DK LOGGER'S CERTIFICATE

Classic “first award” for Members



HAVE YOU APPLIED for your own W7DK Logger's Certificate?! It's FREE and it's EASY! All you have to do is work at least 10 members of the Radio Club of Tacoma, then send in your list of call signs worked, and BAM! We'll print out your certificate and get it to you toot sweet by US Mail.

There are no confirmations required—no logs to submit—and really no rules other than the call signs you submit must be members of the club. You may work them on HF, 2m FM, on FT8 or



SSB or any other mode! In fact, one of the best ways to get your 10 contacts is to check into the weekly Tuesday Night Net on the 147.28 club repeater... every Tuesday at 7:30 PM.

This venerable award was first launched in 1957, using certificate paper printed by club member Dick Ryan, **W7RGD** using a donated printing setup.

As of the date of this publication, there have been almost 700 certificates issued, including a few reissues over the years to replace lost certificates.

The original certificates were hand-lettered by long-time RCT member Barbara Osborne, **W7UYL** (SK 2022), and all of the records were kept in a series of recipe boxes still held by the club.

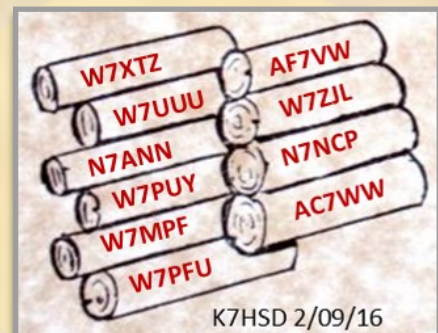
We still have a huge stash of this beautiful OFFICIAL logger's Certificate paper.... So if you do not already have yours, just shoot us an email with your list of call signs worked, and put “Logger's Certificate” in the subject line...

Send to loggersbark@gmail.com



Barbara Osborne **W7UYL** ca. 1955 at an RCT USO event

We also issue “Log Piles” for endorsements of each group of ten additional stations worked! So don't hesitate—get your Logger's Certificate or Log pile Endorsement *today!*



Wanna get yours? Send in those contacts!

THE MYSTERY MEMBER!

Can You Identify This Mystery Member?



If you think you know
who our Mystery
Member is, just send
an email with your
guess... first correct
responder will win a

**FREE QRZ
Bumper Sticker!**

Mailed right to your
door!



Wanna be featured?
Send In your photo!

THE FUNNY PAPERS

Ham Humor for Humorous Hams

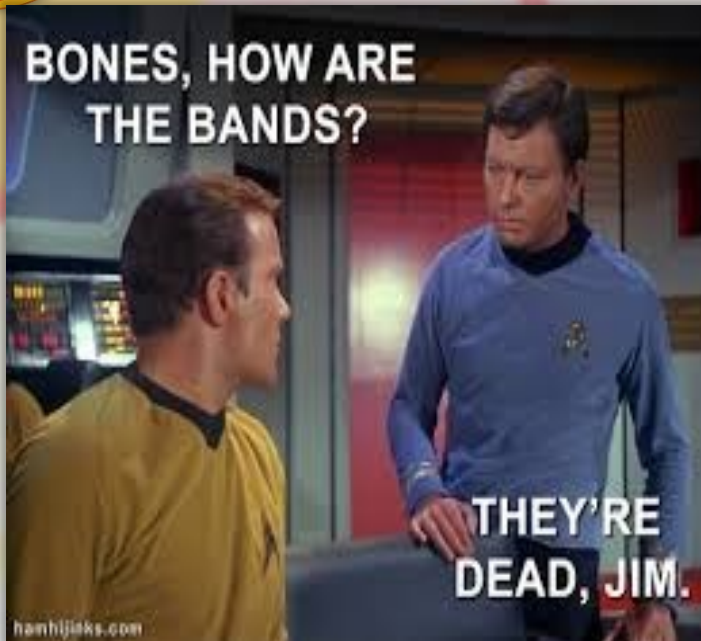


SCENTED CANDLES FOR HAMS
THIS CHRISTMAS

BE KIND TO
EVERYONE YOU MEET.



THEY MAY BE
STUDYING TO BECOME
A HAM.



Got a ham radio funny? Send it in!!

HOW'S DX?

DXpeditions and Notable DX operations



WEB

NEW

NG3K Upcoming DXpedition Calendar

Courtesy Bill Feidt, **NG3K**
used with permission



October		NG3K		NG3K		NG3K		NG3K	
2024 Oct03	2024 Oct10	Samoa	5W0TE	TBA	DXW Net 20240521	By ZL4TE fm Apia; HF; CW FT8			
2024 Oct09	2024 Oct14	Svalbard	JW5X	LA5X	DXW Net 20240114	By LA6VM LA7XK LA9DL; QRV for SAC SSB (Oct 12-13); outside contest using JW6VM JW7XK JW9DL			
2024 Oct10	2024 Oct29	Nauru	C21MM	Club Log OQRS	DXW Net 20240729	By DG2RON DJ5IW DJ7TO DJ9KH DK3CG DK5WL DL1KWK DL2RNS DL4SVA DL6KAC DL6KVA DL7JOM DL7VEE DL8LASEam; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8 RTTY; 5 stations			
2024 Oct15	2024 Oct31	Chatham Is	ZL7IO	LoTW	OPDX 20240824	By ZL3IO; HF; QSL via Club Log OQRS or DK7AO			
2024 Oct16	2024 Oct30	Vanuatu	YJ0VV	LoTW	DXW Net 20240109	By N4VGE + team; HF; QRV for CQWW DX Phone			
2024 Oct17	2024 Oct23	Svalbard	JW	DK1VK	DXW Net 20240817	By DK1VK as JW/DK1VK fm Barentsburg (JQ78cb); 160-10m; SSB; end-fed longwire			
2024 Oct17	2024 Oct24	Mozambique	C91BV	EB7DX	DXW Net 20240814	By CX2AM CX3AN CX8FB; 40-6m; CW SSB FT8; 100w; 2 stations; holiday style operation			
2024 Oct20	2024 Oct25	Cayman Is	ZF2XX <small>NEW</small>	LoTW	DXW Net 20240904	By AE6Z fm Grand Cayman I; CW, perhaps FT8; QRP			
2024 Oct23	2024 Nov06	Jamaica	6Y	eQSL	TDDX 20240429	By G0RNU as 6Y/G0RNU fm Oracabessa, St Mary; 40-6m; SSB + digital			
2024 Oct24	2024 Nov02	Malawi	7Q1	EA7FTR	DXW Net 20240630	By 7Q7CT CT1BOL EC7R 7Q6M EA7FTR fm Lilongwe; all bands; all modes; QRV for CQWW DX SSB Contest			
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB (Oct 26-27, 2024) Check here for pericontest activity too.									
2024 Oct31	2024 Nov11	Burkina Faso	XT2MD	TBA	I8KHC 20240521	By 14 ops fm Ouagadougou; HF w/ focus on low bands and WARC			

Click anywhere on the table above to visit Bill's site directly—the hyperlinks will be active there.

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

Meet the “New K9EID”



W7UUU



Photos: QRZ Bio page of K9EID

I WAS RECENTLY WAXING NOSTALGIC about a friend to thousands, and a personal friend to me, Mr. Bob Heil K9EID, legend in the world of rock-and-roll audio systems concepts and design as well as amateur radio. He was such an accomplished man in his lifetime; influential in the music of rock superstars such as The Who, Joe Walsh, Peter Frampton, and dozens of others, and founder of one of the most well-known ham radio and pro audio companies, Heil Sound. Sadly, Bob became a Silent Key February 28th of this year. In the last year of his life, I had the great pleasure to conduct a series of video interviews with Bob telling stories of his life in rock music as well as ham radio. (You can view these interviews [HERE](#)). I'm happy to say that grandson Charlie Hartley, formerly KF0OOP, has assumed Bob's call sign and is the “new K9EID”!

From Charlie's QRZ Bio Page: “You may or may not know me, but my name is Charlie Hartley. I was first licensed in December of 2023 as a surprise Christmas gift to my grandfather, Bob Heil. It is only fair to say that I caught the Pro Audio and Amateur Radio gene from him. I tested and upgraded to my General class license in March of 2024, shortly after losing Bob.

I understand that it may be startling for there to be a K9EID that isn't Bob, and we all know that nobody can ever top his accomplishments in the amateur radio world, first being licensed in 1956. I have received his callsign to preserve the incredible history for our family and the world. Below you will find [Bob's QRZ page](#) in the shape it was when he left us on February 28th, 2024. May he rest in peace. He was an incredible man and will be missed by family, friends, and all alike.

You can find me around on local 2-meter repeaters, or hf bands such as 10 meters. I look forward to meeting and chatting with each and every one of you!”

Wishing you all the best Charlie –and I hope to work you on the air one day soon—73! -Dave W7UUU



FOR THIS, THE SECOND INSTALLMENT of The Frugal Ham column in *The Bark*, I decided to build up a project I've wanted to do for some time: turning my 1990s-vintage [Torchiere reading light](#) in my living room into a "stealth indoor antenna"! Lamps like this were very common in the 1980s and 90s, most often using halogen "high heat" lamps (as is mine) - usually with a built-in dimmer. If you run the dimmer at 50% or so, the lamp tubes will last for many years, while they produce a nice warm light. These lamps were hugely popular and turn up in thrift shops and "jumble sales" frequently.

So a few weeks ago, I took the lamp out to the shop to prep for this project—adapting it to be an antenna without affecting its ability to be a warm indirect-light reading lamp. Using my VOM, I was able to determine the most important things: that the metal tube sections have full electrical continuity from the heavy base all the way to the reflector top. And secondly, that the lamp base and frame did not in any way connect to the AC power plug (2-pin). And also that it's *not* safety grounded, which would be a deal-breaker to use it for an antenna!

I then drilled into the circular metal base with a self-drilling, self-tapping screw, right into the heavy steel

weight in the bottom. This gave me a very solid electrical connection to the metallic structure of the lamp frame, as verified with my VOM on each tube section. See the photo on the next page to view the location of the screw for the connection.

Next, using a tiny project box that last year appeared on the "Free Table" at the clubhouse, I fabricated a super-simple BNC coaxial connection, including a couple of banana connectors I had (all over eBay and Amazon for very cheap—I try to keep them on hand). This was done to make it easier to connect to the lamp and to the ground radial wire.

In keeping with the goal of "frugal", the transceiver had to be something simple and cheap. Fortunately I had on hand

The components of the station: QDX transceiver, Elecraft T1 tuner, old MS Surface Pro-4, and of course the indoor lamp which was the antenna.





two of the [QRP Labs QDX digital transceivers](#), one for the lower bands: 80, 60, 40, 30, and 20—the other for the high bands: 20, 17, 15, 12, 11, and 10. I did not use 60 meters for this project (I don't believe FT8 meets the FCC rules for that band—just a personal choice) nor, of course, 11 meters... for obvious reasons.

The QDX transceivers come as a kit for only \$69 each (assembled for a \$45 upcharge). That's pretty cheap for a multi-band HF transceiver! They can often be found for sale for much less

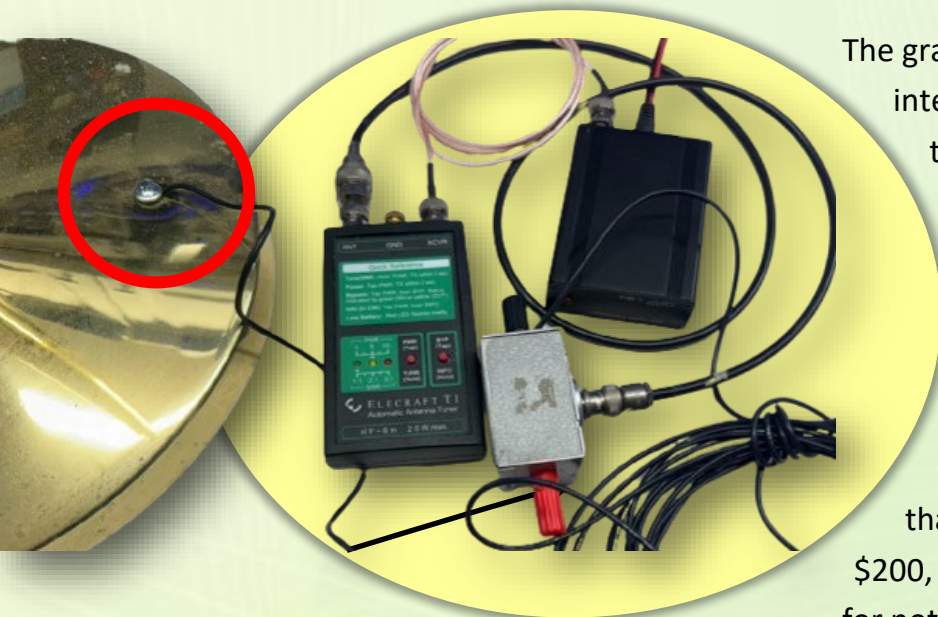
on QRZ.com and eBay. Of course, they are *digital modes only*—so you will be limited in application. But they do FT8 extremely well, with a very sensitive receiver and 4-5 watts RF output if you use a 12v power supply.

I fed the transceivers into an [Elecraft T1 automatic tuner](#), which I suppose *is* something of a luxury. The T1 new is over \$250, but a cheap MFJ or other capable manual tuner (even home-brew) could *easily* do much the same, albeit much slower. I had the T1 in my shack stash, so that's what I used.

The gray box is nothing more than a breakout interface from the coax to the wires used for the lamp connection and the “ground radial” - a 16 foot wire I simply laid along the baseboard in the living room.

And of course, digital modes like FT8 pretty much require a computer interface. Again, as part of my “shack stash” I have a very old [Microsoft Surface Pro4](#) that I bought used 2 years ago for less than \$200, and use it for all of my POTA activations for not only FT8 (via [WSJT-X software](#)) but for logging (using [N3FJP Amateur Contact Log](#)).

Once I had the whole rig set up and ready to operate in the living room, I very quickly realized that even my measly 4 watts of RF in such conditions, so close to the computer, with the



Closeup of the antenna parts: 1990s Torchiere floor lamp; inside the red circle is the electrical connection to the lamp.

The gray box is simply a breakout from the coax for the antenna and radial connections. The black box is one of the two QDX digital transceivers. The coil of wire lower right is a single 16 foot radial. See text for full details of the setup. The 9v battery-powered tuner is an Elecraft T1



antenna right behind me just feet away, that the USB port of the Surface Pro4 couldn't handle the interference. This was a *big* surprise—I didn't think such QRP levels would cause the Surface to crash, but it did—*time after time*.

The solution was to use a TON of clamp-on ferrite choke filters (I had a bunch on hand that I bought for cheap on Amazon during my big shack rebuild in 2021). See the photo for just how many such chokes it took! But once they were all clamped in place on the USB cable, and after I coiled a length of it into a tight loop, I was able to completely eliminate crashes of the WSJT-X software and the Surface Pro4 computer. I found that I was able to use the Elecraft T1 tuner to match the lamp on *all major ham bands 80 through 10!*

Granted, the lower bands (80 and 40) were pretty useless in practice. Yes, I *did make contacts* on both bands—but I didn't consider the dismal results worth the effort. (As a brief test, I did try my Icom IC-705 at 5 watts on both 160 and 6, but was not able to achieve a match on either band that didn't crash the computer—no big surprises there—so back to the QDX rigs).

As I slowly got into the swing of using this setup



The USB cable and all the chokes required to make the system work. See text for full details.

in my living room, and started to make contacts on pretty much all bands, I realized the super-limited conditions were a great way to truly appreciate *minor changes* in propagation! My signals were very much on the fringe both ways—QRP on the transmit side, and a simple receiver on the receive side—with a compromise antenna.

So after a few days, I found a true rhythm of *watching* for signals—as I would tune the T1 for a new

band, I'd diligently *watch* the WSJT-X waterfall window for hints of activity (since I couldn't *listen!* The QDX has no audio output for "hearing" signals play). It became a fun passion, watching bands on the waterfall, looking for activity, and judging by the display on the Surface Pro4 how strong the incoming signals really were by the



The simple breakout box from the coax (BNC jack) to the two wires for the antenna. The box was free from a junk table—it even came with the BNC connector!



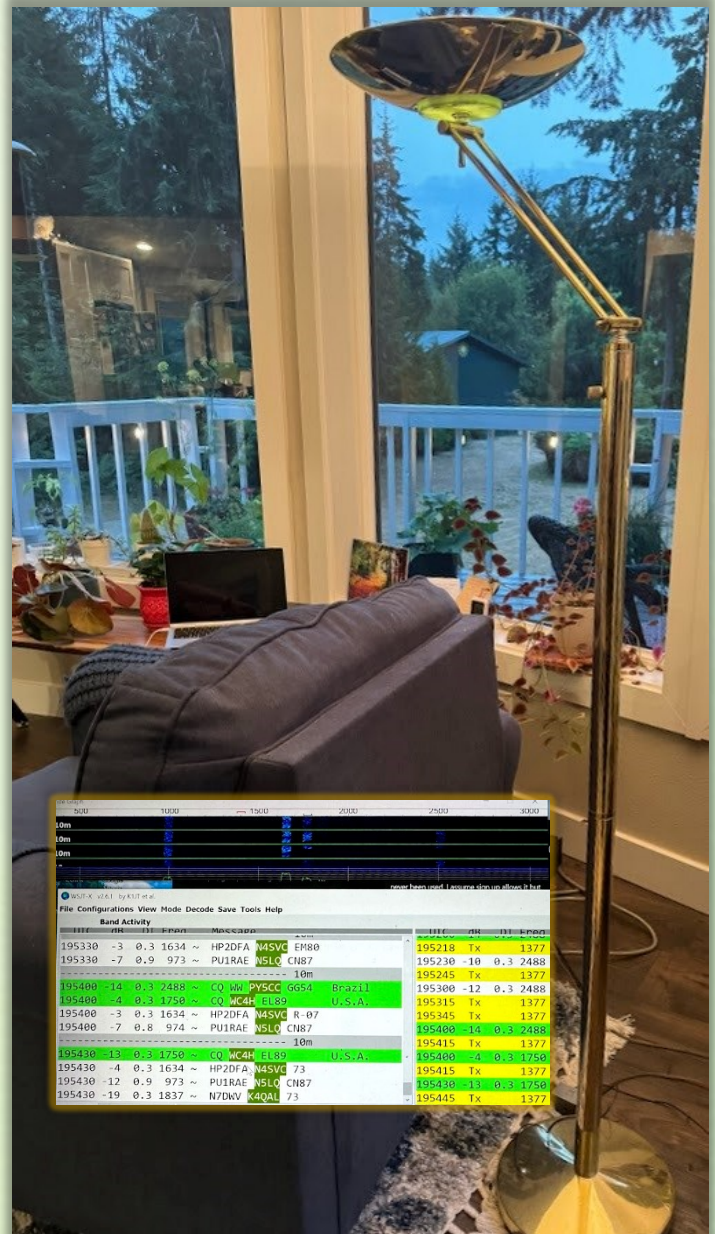
traces they left in the waterfall screen of the WSJT-X software.

Once I figured all that out (the first two days), changing bands became a breeze for me. I'd just go to a new band, key the QDX while the T1 was in "tune" mode, then watch the waterfall to see if the "tuned" antenna was feeding any signal traces to the waterfall. Nothing seen? Then move to the next band and repeat the process. And at that, it turned out that the higher bands *most often* were my friend! 10 and 15 meters especially, with 12 close behind. 20 was seldom much use (which was a huge surprise!) - not sure why—was it propagation? Or was it the QDX? Or just my limited antenna... or a combination of all of these factors.

But most of my contacts came from 10, 12, and 15. 17 meters was pretty good as well, but not like the other bands. 10 was the clear winner with 46 QSOs, 15 meters netted 33, and 25 contacts were made on 12 (see last page for QSO-by-band breakouts).

One important aspect to using a super-limited setup like this is "*operator patience*". And maybe my 49 years as a ham helped play into this... I had to dispense with *all thoughts of instant gratification*. There were periods during this project where I would literally try for over an hour to make a contact, with zero results!

(continued on page 59)



The full setup as used for this project (the MS Surface 4 is closed and not visible—that's my normal laptop in view). Hard to see but the single radial wire is run along the baseboard behind the lamp and down low totally out of view.

Inset: 10m band operation showing signals in the WSJT-X waterfall (black area) Note the dB levels of the CQ signals! Very workable, all things considered.



By the end of the first full week, the station set-up had been fully vetted, and my procedures for working the 2 QDX rigs and the T1 tuner were very well dialed in. I even found that turning the lamp on for reading over my morning tea actually made *zero difference* in operation, so at that point the living room truly got back to normal. I thought the dimmer or the halogen bulb would inject noise—but nothing really changed having the lamp on.

Every day, as time allowed, I would explore the bands, swapping from one QDX to the other to change band ranges (again, the higher bands being far more productive for me as it progressed).

One of the most surprising observations was signal strengths, as reported by WSJT-X. I was really amazed at some of the crazy dB reports: most notably was contact #89, with station **AA4M** in Arizona, where WSJT-X reported him at +19 dB and a received signal of +14!! That is truly a pipeline QSO path if ever there was one!

There were many others like this—and many *well below* that level that still managed to complete the QSO. Just part of the magic of FT8! The ubiquitous Cuban station, Eduardo, **C08LY**, I worked with a received report of -15 and a sent report of -22... he was the weakest signal *that resulted in a completed QSO on the very first round....* pretty amazing!

So what does all of this mean for other hams: Simply that the old saying, “where there’s a will there’s a way” has a lot to do with it. As mentioned previously in this article, maybe my long history as a ham, operating through a bunch of solar cycles since becoming a ham in 1974, and having many sub-par station setups over those years, taught me patience when it comes to making contacts.

During this project, as my wife Anne **N7ANN** can well attest, I’d be in my chair in the living room for a full HOUR without making a single contact. I’d change bands, move the ground radial to different places, move the lamp, and keep trying. Sometimes in the course of one hour I’d make ONE contact... to a close-in state like California or Arizona.

But then, given my highly-marginal setup, a slight change in propagation would happen, and suddenly I would be working a station in North Carolina, or



After a few days of operating, I realized the lamp added zero noise to speak of, and not being grounded, was perfectly safe to use as ... a LAMP! With the nice warm glow I’m used to!



THE FRUGAL HAM

Ham Radio on a Budget

W7UUU

N3FJP's Amateur Contact Log 7.0.10

www.n3fjp.com

FileEditSettingsClearCallBookListSearchAwardseLogsRecallNetViewHelp

Find

Recent Contacts

131 Listed

Rec#	Call	Date / Time	Bnd	Mode	Power	Snt	Rec	Off	Country	ST	County	Name	O	S	R	Comments
131	WT1W	2024/09/02 19:29	10	FT8	4	-18	-06	19:30	USA	AL	Montgomery	Jim	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
130	NW5X	2024/09/02 16:35	12	FT8	4	-04	-12	16:36	USA	TX	Collin	BRUCE	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
129	K8ZT	2024/09/02 16:28	12	FT8	4	-16	-12	16:29	USA	OH	Summit	ANTH...	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
128	KT5OT	2024/09/02 16:21	12	FT8	4	-01	-02	16:22	USA	AR	Sebastian	JOHN	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
127	KJ5FCU	2024/09/02 16:17	10	FT8	4	-17	-09	16:18	USA	TX	Bastrop	JACK...	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
126	KC3WLS	2024/09/02 16:12	10	FT8	4	-08	-16	16:13	USA	PA	Lancaster	Thomas	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
125	K5MV	2024/09/02 16:06	12	FT8	4	-09	-10	16:07	USA	TX	Liberty	HALFO...	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
124	WU9D	2024/09/02 16:03	12	FT8	4	-04	-11	16:04	USA	IL	Cook	MICHA...	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
123	KF9UG	2024/09/02 16:02	12	FT8	4	-09	-14	16:03	USA	IN	DeKalb	MICHA...	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
122	K5RKS	2024/09/02 16:00	12	FT8	4	-10	-16	16:01	USA	OK	Oklahoma	Roger	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
121	K8BL	2024/09/02 15:55	12	FT8	4	-19	-15	15:56	USA	OH	Lake	BOB	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
120	N3ZKI	2024/09/02 15:52	12	FT8	4	-03	-10	15:53	USA	PA	Erie	KORY	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
119	KD8VKK	2024/09/02 15:45	12	FT8	4	-05	-12	15:47	USA	MI	Ottawa	Dale	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
118	KD8WBZ	2024/09/02 15:42	12	FT8	4	-13	-18	15:44	USA	OH	Lucas	Darin	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
117	K8BL	2024/09/02 15:29	12	FT8	4	-15	-11	15:30	USA	OH	Lake	BOB	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
116	AA7EW	2024/09/02 15:15	15	FT8	4	-12	-17	15:16	USA	AZ	Cochise	DAVID	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
115	AA0AM	2024/09/02 15:05	15	FT8	4	-12	-18	15:06	USA	IA	Tama	Andy	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
114	W7LPN	2024/09/02 03:07	40	FT8	4	-11	-15	03:08	USA	ID	Washington	Rick	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
113	NSAQM	2024/09/02 02:11	15	FT8	4	-07	-01	02:12	USA	AZ	Maricopa	MICHA...	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
112	C08LY	2024/09/02 02:08	15	FT8	4	-22	-15	02:10	Cuba			Eduardo	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
111	KC7QY	2024/09/02 02:06	15	FT8	4	-02	+06	02:07	USA	NM	Socorro	James	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup
110	WC2P	2024/09/02 02:03	15	FT8	4	-16	-14	02:04	USA	MO	Saint Louis	AVELI...	N	N	N	Living Room FT8 Setup

The final scoring: 131 unique contacts, reaching 34 states (one of which being Hawaii, which is also a DX entity), 4 continents, 12 CQ Zones, and 12 Countries—including a contact (now confirmed) with Samoa on 17 meters, for a new country for me on that band! Total operating time was approximately 15 hours over a 9 day period, August 25-September 2, 2024. A big thanks to all the stations I worked for this project and for some who really tried *hard* to get me in the log!

-Dave

Cont		CQ Zns	
Worked	4	Worked	12
AS		03	
NA		04	
OC		05	
SA		06	
		08	
		10	
		11	
		12	
		13	
		25	
		31	

View Map		States	
Worked	34	Rem	16
AL		AK	
AR		CO	
AZ		CT	
CA		DE	
FL		MA	
GA		MD	
HI		ME	
IA		MN	
ID		MT	
IL		NH	
IN		OR	

View		Countries		View	
Worked	12	Remaining		328	
Argentina		Afghanistan			
Brazil		Agalega & St. Brandon			
Canada		Aland Is.			
Chile		Alaska			
Cuba		Albania			
Ecuador		Algeria			
Hawaii		American Samoa			
Japan		Amsterdam & St. Paul			
Mexico		Andaman & Nicobar Is.			
Samoa		Andorra			
Uruguay		Angola			
USA		Anguilla			
		Annohon I.			
		Antarctica			
		Antigua & Barbuda			

New York, or even Samoa! Then 20 minutes later I'd find the band dead to me for an hour.

It's my belief that there are tons of ways to get on the air as a ham with either a frugal radio setup or a limited space stealth antenna arrangement, or both! But with that comes the need for *patience*, experimentation, and an adjustment of your own expectations. Your own experience will always be very unique to the rig and antenna you have assembled and how it will interface with the ionosphere in real terms regarding the contacts you can make.

The bottom line is you won't know until you at least try. Hopefully this article will give you some hope.

-Dave W7UUU

Band	QSO count
80	2
40	2
30	3
20	6
17	14
15	33
12	25
10	46

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

Fun Stuff for Hams to Read



W7UUU

HAM TIPS from RCA

PUBLISHED BY RCA MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC., CAMDEN, N. J., U. S. A.
VOL. 1—No. 4 CAMDEN, N. J. DECEMBER, 1938

ONE-TUBE XTAL RIG GIVES 150-WATT OUTPUT ON C-W

RCA 806 IS TOPS FOR HIGH-POWER HAM TRANSMITTERS

New enclosed plate increases power at 30 megacycles



Always a leader with amateurs for high-powered transmitters, the RCA 806 is finding even greater favor because of numerous design improvements. A totally enclosed tantalum plate conserves power by eliminating losses from bulb bombardment and stray electrons. At 30 megacycles, this provides the user with 75 watts of additional useful power per tube. As a plate modulated r-f power amplifier, the RCA 806 has a power output of 390 watts per tube with a driving power of only 32 watts. As an r-f power amplifier and oscillator in Class C telegraph service, the power

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

For Television Experimenters



Again RCA gives Television Experimenters new tools for working out their problems. Two of the new Kinescopes have white screens for reproducing black and white pictures. The other one has a green screen and may be used for either television or oscillographic work. The RCA-1899 Monoscope is used for producing test signals.

HIGH-POWER CRYSTAL OSCILLATOR A REALITY WITH RCA-813 TETRODE

May be plate-modulated with 60% efficiency for carrier output of 100 watts

The long-cherished amateur dream of a one-tube crystal-controlled 'phone or cw transmitter comes very close to being realized with the new RCA-813 beam power tetrode. In plate-modulated service, 100% modulation can be obtained with good linearity, low distortion, and a carrier output of 100 watts! In cw telegraphy service, excellent keying can be accomplished in the screen circuit and a power output of 150 watts can be obtained! In neither case is the r-f crystal current excessive.

FOUR TELEVISION TUBES ANNOUNCED TO EXPERIMENTERS

Two Kinescopes provide black and white pictures

Three new Kinescopes and an improved Monoscope have just been made available to Amateurs and experimenters by all RCA Power Tube Distributors. These new tubes are:

Amateur Net	
RCA 906-P4 KINESCOPE (3-inch Electrostatic-Deflection Type with White Phosphor)	\$15.00
RCA 1802-P1 KINESCOPE (3-inch Electrostatic-Deflection Type with Green Phosphor)	23.75
RCA 1802-P4 KINESCOPE (3-inch Electrostatic-Deflection Type with White Phosphor)	27.50
RCA 1899 MONOSCOPE (Electromagnetic-Deflection Type)	95.00

Kinescope 906-P4 (similar to the well-known type 906) is a 3-inch cathode-ray tube which features a white fluorescent screen material for the black-and-white reproduction of television pictures. In addition to its low initial cost, this new type permits

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Beam Tetrode



High-Power Sensitivity and a power output in Class C service of 260 watts make the RCA-813 an excellent tube for medium power rigs. Elimination of neutralization in adequately shielded circuits and a driving power of less than 1 watt are other important features.

One-Tube CW or 'Phone Transmitter

Plate-Modulated Telephony Power Output 100 Watts
CW Telegraphy Power Output 150 Watts



UC-14

Components:
 $C_1, C_2, C_3 = 0.002 \mu\text{f}$, MICA
 $C_4 = 0.0001 \mu\text{f}$, MICA
 $C_5 = 1.5 \mu\text{f}$, PER METER
 $C_6 = 0.001 \mu\text{f}$, 200V, MICA
 $C_7 = 0.002 \mu\text{f}$, 5000V, MICA
 $R_1 = 20,000 \text{ OHMS}$, WIRE-WOUND
 $R_2 = 50 \text{ OHMS}$, C.T. WIRE-WOUND
 $R_3 = 50,000 \text{ OHMS}$, 25 WATTS
 $R_4 = 100 \text{ TURNS}$ No. 24 D.C.C. on $1\frac{1}{4}$ " Diameter Form
 $L_1 = \text{FOR FREQUENCY "F"}$
 $L_2 = \text{R-F CHOKE, 250 MA. D.C.}$
 $F = \frac{1}{2} \text{ A. HIGH-VOLTAGE FUSE}$
 $K = \text{SEE NOTE}$
 $X = \text{CRYSTAL, FREQUENCY "F"}$
 $P = 2.0\text{-VOLT, 60-MA. PILOT LAMP}$
 NOTE: "K" is a high-voltage keying relay insulated for 2500 Volts. Do not use an ordinary key in this position under any circumstance

Copyright 1939, RCA Manufacturing Co., Inc.

I REMEMBER SEEING this advertisement years ago in 1930s magazines and had to wonder just how many hams actually tried to build such a transmitter... 150 watts *OUTPUT* (not input!) from a single 813 as a power oscillator, with a full 1500 volts of "instant death" voltage on the keying line! Of course, they have a strong recommendation in the article: "In order to key the high-voltage screen circuit safely, it is absolutely essential to employ a suitable high-voltage keying relay insulated for 2500 volts". But even at that, the risks are very high. To reduce current through the crystal and help pre-

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

Fun Stuff for Hams to Read



W7UUU

HAM TIPS from RCA

Four Television Tubes Announced To Experimenters

(Continued from page 1, column 3)

of low circuit cost due to the low voltage at which its Anode No. 2 can be operated—only 600 volts. This feature is the result of improved electron-gun construction and the use of a conductive inner-bulb coating. The conductive coating minimizes deflecting-plate loading and prevents drifting of the pattern with changes in control-grid bias.

Two 5-inch Kinescopes

Kinescopes 1802-P1 and 1802-P4 are 5-inch cathode-ray tubes of the double-electrostatic-deflection type. These tubes are similar except for their fluorescent screens. The 1802-P4 has the new white-fluorescent screen, while the 1802-P1 has the standard green screen. Both types have an improved electron-gun construction and a conductive inner-bulb coating. The 1802-P1, being designed for television as well as for oscillographs, is especially good for the latter application due to the brilliant pattern and small spot-size it produces. In either tube, the deflection sensitivity is such that the beam may be deflected across the entire screen with no more voltage than is required for full deflection on 3-inch cathode-ray tubes.

Improved Monoscope

Monoscope RCA-1890 is a special form of cathode-ray tube used mainly for testing the performance of television equipment. In the operation of this tube, an electron beam is made to scan a test pattern printed on an electrode located in the screen end of the bulb. As a result of secondary-emission effects produced by the scanning of the pattern, the tube generates a video signal. This signal, after amplification, is useful for testing television equipment and for demonstrating television principles.

RCA 806 Is Tops For High-Power Ham Transmitters

(Continued from page 1, column 1)

output is approximately 450 watts per tube with 20 watts driving power.

Supplementing its fine performance is the mechanical design of the RCA 806. The filament structure and grid assembly are both double collar mounted, while rugged supports prevent possible glass fractures. Every precaution has been made to make the RCA 806 an outstandingly sturdy high-powered tube. It's tops in performance and tops in construction.

The low net price of \$22.00, plus the many fine features of this tube, is making it a great favorite for replacement use. Your RCA Parts Distributor will be glad to give you further details pertaining to this fine RCA tube.



Photo Anderson

First prize winner in "Ham Tips" 100% RCA Tubed Transmitter photo contest is Richard T. Parks, Jr., of Alameda, California, owner of amateur radio station W6PHS. The illustration shows the final amplifier using push-pull RCA-813's.

V-CUT CRYSTALS

Greatly Reduce Frequency Drift



Unusually high-power output, plus an extremely low temperature coefficient, make the RCA V-Cut Crystals ideal for amateur use. Crystals are supplied within 0.1% of specified frequency and are calibrated to an accuracy of 0.003% at calibration temperature. Temperature coefficient is 4 cycles

or less per million per degree of centigrade on all bands. They are ideal for operation at the edge of amateur bands where extreme stability is required. RCA V-Cut Crystals are not to be confused with the usual amateur-type crystal and are supplied and calibrated on order only. Your RCA Amateur Equipment Distributor will be glad to furnish these units at the following prices, which include holder and calibration. (Allow two weeks for delivery after your distributor has placed order with us.)

160, 80 and 40-meter band crystals	\$18.00
20-meter band crystals (up to 15 megacycle for doubling to high frequency end of 10-meter band)	22.00

RCA SOCKETS

Sturdy, well-built RCA sockets are available for many Transmitting tubes. These sockets are manufactured by RCA and are built to the same high standards employed in RCA Transmitting Tubes.

Amateur Net	
UT 541-A for RCA 203-A, etc.	1.75
UT 103 for RCA 833 only	12.50
UT 102-A for RCA 803 only	2.25
UT 1085-6 for RCA 204-A, etc.	4.65
UT 104 for RCA 813 only	1.25

One-Tube Rig Has 150-Watt Output on C-W

(Continued from page 1, column 4)

results on 40 meters were the same as those on 80 meters. The same circuit constants can be used for either cw or head 'phone operation.

Easily Keyed Without "Chirping"

When the screen circuit is keyed, a receiver test shows that a clean-cut signal is obtained with no noticeable "chirping." This excellent keying characteristic is due to the fact that, with the key open, the crystal continues to oscillate freely; thus, when the key is closed, the crystal starts off on the same frequency without causing chirps. The antenna load should not be coupled too tightly, as this may cause the crystal to stop oscillating when the key is up. Proper loading can be obtained, without stopping the key-up oscillations. In order to key the high-voltage screen circuit safely (as regards the operator), it is absolutely essential to employ a suitable high-voltage keying relay, insulated for 2500 volts. Under no circumstances should an ordinary manual key be used in the screen circuit.

Operating Conditions

The operating conditions for circuit UC-14 are as follows:

For plate-modulated telephony: d-c plate voltage, 1500 volts; plate current, 111 ma.; screen current, 15 ma.; d-c grid current, 5 ma.; r-f crystal current, 61 ma.; plate input, 167 watts; carrier output, 100 watts; and plate efficiency, 60 per cent.

For cw telegraphy: plate voltage, 1500 volts; plate current, 162 ma.; screen current, 18 ma.; d-c grid current, 7 ma.; r-f crystal current, 14.2 ma.; plate input 244 watts; carrier output, 150 watts; and plate efficiency, 61.5 per cent.

The 813 as a high-power crystal oscillator can be used to drive a plate-modulated one-kilowatt final amplifier stage directly—for example,

two 806's in push-pull. Thus, the design of a high-power, band-switching transmitter for operation on the three lowest-frequency amateur bands (160, 80, and 40 meters) is greatly simplified, through the use of only two r-f stages.

TYPE RCA-813 CHARACTERISTICS AND RATINGS

Filament Voltage (AC or DC)	10.0	Volts
Filament Current	5	Amps.
Transconductance, For plate cur. of 50 ma.	3750 approx.	Micros.
Direct Inter-electrode Capacitance:		
Grid-Plate (With external shielding)	0.2 max.	µfd
Input	16.3	µfd
Output	14	µfd
Bulb	T-20	
Cap.	Medium Metal	
Base	Giant 7-Pin Bayonet	

MAXIMUM RATINGS AND TYPICAL OPERATING CONDITIONS

As R-F Power Amplifier and Oscillator —Class C Telephony

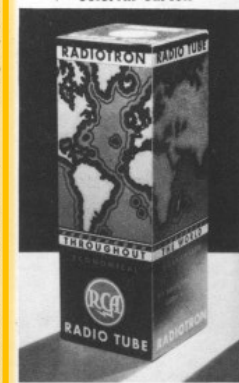
Key-down conditions per tube without modulation*				
DC Plate Voltage	2000	max. V		
DC Screen Voltage (Grid No. 2)	400	max. V		
DC Grid Voltage (Grid No. 1)	300	max. V		
DC Plate Current	180	max. mA		
DC Grid Current	25	max. mA		
Plate Input	360	max. W		
Screen Input	22	max. W		
Plate Dissipation	100	max. W		
Typical Operation:				
DC Plate Voltage	1250	1500	2000 V	
DC Screen Voltage	300	300	400 V	
DC Grid Voltage*	-60	-70	-90 V	
Peak R-F Grid Voltage	145	150	160 V	
Beam-Forming Plate Voltage	0	0	0 V	
DC Plate Current	180	180	180 mA	
DC Screen Current	23	20	15 mA	
DC Grid Current	(Approx.)	7	6	3 mA
Screen Resistor	42000	60000	107000 Ω	
Grid Resistor	8500	11700	30000 Ω	
Driving Power (Approx.)	1	0.8	0.5 W	
Power Output	155	190	260 W	

* Grid voltages are given with respect to the mid-point of filament circuit operated on AC. If DC is used, each stated value of grid voltage should be decreased by 7 volts and the circuit returns made to the negative end of the filament.

Beam-forming plates should be connected to the mid-point of filament circuit operated on AC, or to the negative end of the filament when a DC filament supply is used.

** Modulation essentially negative may be used if the positive peak of the audio-frequency envelope does not exceed 115% of the carrier conditions.

Colorful Carton



The new carton for RCA Power and Special Purpose Tubes is an unusually attractive four-color job. Look for it the next time you buy tubes for your amateur rig.

vent damage, what's called a "Reinhartz arrangement" of a Pierce Oscillator is used. The sales pitch of the article is clearly intended to lure in builders: "The long-cherished amateur dream of a one-tube crystal-controlled [150 watt] transmitter comes very close to being realized with the new RCA-813 beam power tetrode." I bet!

And it goes on to say "Easily Keyed Without Chirping" ... a feat that's often hard to achieve in a 5 watt Pierce oscillator one-tube CW transmitter, much less one pushing up to 150 watts with 1500 volts on the plate!

My advice? DON'T build this thing and live a longer life!

-Dave W7UUU

AROUND THE SHACK & SHOP

Little tips for when you get a round TUIT!



Frugal Ham Tips



*Left: my old dead
air conditioner*

*Right: recovered
GFCI cord and plug*



Ever the frugal ham in many ways, Bob [K7MXE](#) submitted this simple idea for making your own heavy-duty [GFCI](#) (ground fault interrupter) power cord from a salvaged GFCI plug from an old home air conditioner. My old “no name” Chinese AC unit failed, and Bob has a friend who recycles them. But not before he cut the 15-amp cord off to craft into a handy portable GFCI cable for shack, shop and home. Thanks for the submission Bob! ■ *-editor*

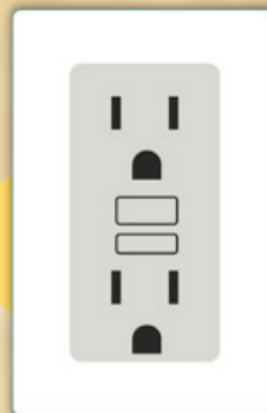


So What is a GFCI Outlet?

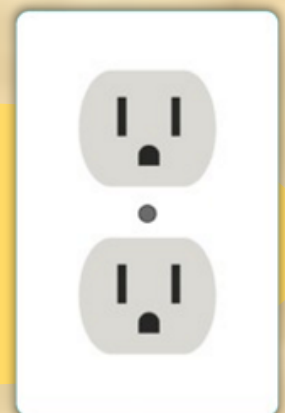
A **GFCI** (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) outlet is a special type of electrical outlet designed to help prevent electric shock. It works by constantly monitoring the flow of electricity in a circuit. If the GFCI detects any imbalance, like electricity flowing somewhere it shouldn't—such as through water or a person—it quickly shuts off the power to stop the flow. This only takes 1/40th of a second to trip, and a GFCI typically trips on current levels of only 4-6 milliamps.

This makes GFCI outlets especially important in areas where water and electricity are close together, like bathrooms, kitchens, and outdoor spaces. Water is a good conductor of electricity, so the risk of shock is higher in those places.

Installing GFCI outlets can help prevent dangerous situations like getting shocked if you accidentally touch an appliance with wet hands. They're a key safety feature and are required by building codes in most areas to reduce the risk of electrical injury. So, while they look like normal outlets, they play a huge role in keeping you safe around electricity. The simple cord conversion Bob built up allows any outlet to offer such protection simply by plugging the GFCI plug into the non-protected outlet. ■ *-editor*



GFCI Outlet



Standard Outlet



STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

Fun Stuff for Hams to Read



W7UUU



Submissions from Jeff, **KB7QAG**: Above—setting up an unused tablet device with HamClock—a free app for such devices to have a nice clock for the shack for cheap. And below, the amazing [Hakko FR-301](#) portable desoldering tool—an amazing piece of kit that Jeff now has in his stash. Thanks Jeff! -ed.



Photos provided by Jeff KB7QAG

Did You Know?

The earliest desoldering devices were manual tools with the most common generically being called a **solder sucker**, which is a handheld vacuum pump with a plunger mechanism. They were developed in the late 1950s and early 1960s, although pinning down the exact inventor is difficult. Companies such as [Edsyn](#), founded in 1959 by Jack Edwards in California, were among the pioneers in desoldering technology. Edsyn is credited with some early innovations in desoldering tools, including solder suckers and specialized desoldering stations.

By the 1960s and 1970s, more advanced desoldering tools, including heated desoldering stations with integrated motor-powered suction, were developed. These are typically attributed to companies like [Pace Incorporated](#) and as Jeff displays below, the Japanese product made by [Hakko](#).

My very first desoldering tools were the ones made by Edsyn, and I still use one to this day, although I do own a Hakko like Jeff's for tough or very delicate jobs.

-Dave **W7UUU**



Iconic Edsyn "Soldapullt" solder sucker



LAST MONTH'S CLUB POTA EVENT took place on Saturday, September 7th at Flaming Geyser State Park ([US-3187](#)) near Auburn Washington. This expedition was attended by AI N7OMS who provided this write-up of the event:

BJ **KO7T** (formerly **WA7WJR**) has held quite a few POTA events and I have gone mostly as an observer. It was time to be a more active participant so I asked Mike **W7MKE** if I could help with his station. Left early Sunday morning to be at Mike's house, then off to breakfast with Dave **AC7KP**. I think Dave was excited to play with some new equipment that he had gotten recently. So much so he bought breakfast for us.

So we were off to [Flaming Geyser State Park](#) which is off highway 18 on a pleasant county road past farms and small ranches. Not knowing where to set up, we did a drive-through and met up with John **N7TES**, Dave **KK7NYW**, Jeff **KK7PRJ** and several other hams including Christian **KK7AIX** who saw the POTA event on the W7DK website. Christian is a newer ham with little experience but was willing to give it a go, and with Mike guiding him was able to make several QSOs.

I wandered to the other stations to see their setups and snap a few pictures. We had transformed several picnic tables into a fully functioning communications hub. How cool is that?! A mini-Field Day all in the matter of an hour or so. Mike **W7XH** came by and decided all the best places were being used so moved down the road to find an unused spot.

After several hours operating, the park was starting to fill up so it was time to begin the take-down, which happens faster than the set-up. I believe everyone felt successful—not so much in the QSO count, but in the satisfaction of getting their stations up and running and generating some RF.

Since we had missed lunch several of us went off to a local buffet to finish up the day and trade stories about the POTA event and hope for future ones. My thanks go to BJ for setting up these wonderful ham radio memories and Mike **W7MKE** for putting up with me.

73!

-AI **N7OMS**

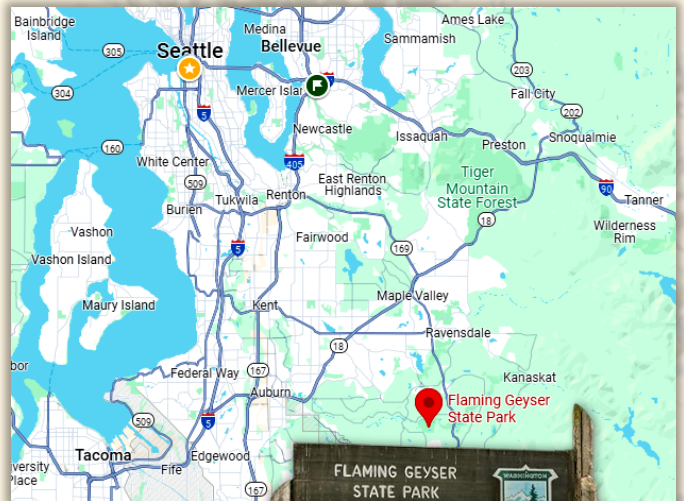


Photo by N7OMS

Mike **W7MKE** (standing) helps Christian **KK7AIX** work his first POTA contacts at Flaming Geyser State Park

POTA / SOTA



Parks & Summits on the Air Activities

AI N7OMS photos



All photos provided by

AI **N7OMS**



CAMP QUEST NORTHWEST RADIO TENT:

A Week of Connections and Stormy Adventures

By Eman **KK7QLW**

It was the last night at Camp Quest NorthWest at Camp Kirby in Bow, WA, and the Radio Tent became the center of an unexpected storm adventure. The campers had already headed home after a week filled with exciting VHF and HF contacts, leaving a few of us behind to wrap things up. I was there with Becky **KG7FZH**, two other counselors, and Becky's nephew. We were discussing ham radio, spinning the knob around the 20m band, and making a few final contacts.

We called CQ, managing to reach a station in southern Oregon, where the storm had just passed, and checked in with Mark **WH7T** in Hawaii before the chaos began. Suddenly, we noticed flashes across the waterfall, warning us of the approaching lightning. Then, the wind hit. The tent began to lift, and Becky's nephew grabbed onto one of the legs to keep it grounded. I quickly disconnected the antennas as we scrambled to lower the tent and secure the guy lines. Within seconds, we called for help on our CRS walkies, and Sam **N9MII** and a crew of 15 arrived to help us pack up and move everything indoors just before the rain hit.

Earlier that day, the ocean had its turn with us, snatching our homemade vertical antenna and radials off the

beach. Thankfully, Becky found it further down the shore, wrapped in seaweed!

Despite these adventures, the week was filled with radio highlights. While calling CQ on 146.520, we reached Mike **KG7HQ**, Vice Director of the Northwestern Division of the ARRL, who shared that he had participated

in fundraising for [Camp Kirby](#) years ago! Four campers and I accidentally made contact with Dan **KB7RYY** in South Bellevue on 2m SSB after a camper unintentionally switched the mode off of FM. We connected with the Navajo Code Talkers **N7C** in Arizona, and some campers found a net in Port Moody, BC, and checked in after hearing a story about horse

camp. Sam **N9MII**, Eman **KK7QLW**, and camper Elliott also had a QSO with Simon **VA7BIX**, who was doing a YouTube Live Stream testing tuned vs. untuned radials on his channel [theHamJazz](#). We also contacted the Indiana State Fair special station **W9ISF** and logged several POTA and SOTA contacts thanks to the campers' enthusiasm.

VHF provided great contacts with hams in Port Angeles, Anacortes, Sequim, Sedro-Woolley, and Surrey, BC, especially early in the week when 20m was hampered by geomagnetic interference. The campers were particularly excited about earning special pins for making contacts, which drew even more of them to the tent during the afternoons.





Fox hunting was another hit, with all 70 campers participating at least once during morning programming, and many returning for Advanced Direction Finding sessions in the afternoons. As the campers headed home, many were eager to get their ham licenses. On Saturday, during pickup, we guided several parents through the Radio Tent, handing out notes with URLs for training and licensing information.

It was a week full of memorable moments, both on the air and off. We look forward to seeing many of these young radio enthusiasts continue their ham journey!

Camp Quest NorthWest is a residential summer camp focused on fun, friends, and freethought for kids ages 8-17. We provide a traditional sleepaway summer camp experience, including sports, crafts, games, swimming, and campfires, plus educational activities focused on critical thinking, ethics, scientific inquiry, and philosophy. Find out more at campquestnorthwest.org.

Eman Pleshe, **KK7QLW**



Youthful RCT operator Mike Thompson's ticket **WB7QNP**, issued in the late 70s, at an unknown Collins rig. I was good friends with his "license issuance peers" **WB7QNS** and **WB7QNT**, Eve and Ken Anderson respectively—whom I helped "Elmer" into the hobby at the time. Never met Mike—but his photos are found in the W7DK archives and he was in the same testing group as the Andersons

■ -editor



Photos as provide by Eman **KK7QLW**

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Amateur Radio EmComm News & Topics



ARRL Web

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Station Readiness

09/20/2024

As ARRL continues the September series on National Preparedness Month, we turn to a critical element for radio amateurs and especially Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers: their station.

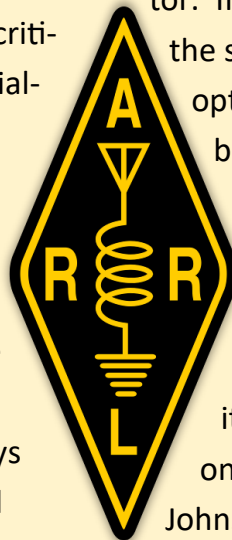
Many hams have a home station from which we operate on a regular basis. Is your station set up to operate or have the ability to operate off the grid or on alternate power sources? There are many ways to set this up to run on battery power and could even be done temporarily if you don't have a permanent battery backup situation.

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, says it is easier than ever to have a backup. "With the new batteries out there, and solar technology both improving in quality and decreasing in price, building a resilient station is no longer difficult or expensive," he said. Johnston encourages ham radio operators to think about powering more than just the radio on an alternate power source. "Do you have lights that could run off the battery source? Do you have an alternate power source

for your computer? What about your internet connection? Is there a backup for it?" he asked.

Johnston says backup generators are great but sometimes are only fed to certain circuits in your home. Amateurs should test their ham station to ensure that it is powered by the generator. If the whole house system does not power the station, a portable generator could be an option. The key is to test the system under blue sky conditions to ensure it works, check for RF noise, and potential power drop.

Having backup antennas is also crucial. "Especially if we are dealing with storms, it may be useful to have alternate antennas on hand, especially for HF and VHF," said Johnston.



SEE PREVIOUS STORIES:

<https://www.arrl.org/news/national-preparedness-month-ensuring-family-safety>

<https://www.arrl.org/news/resilience-through-amateur-radio-for-national-preparedness-month>

<https://www.arrl.org/news/national-preparedness-month-have-a-go-kit>

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STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fun stuff for Hams to read!



W7UUU

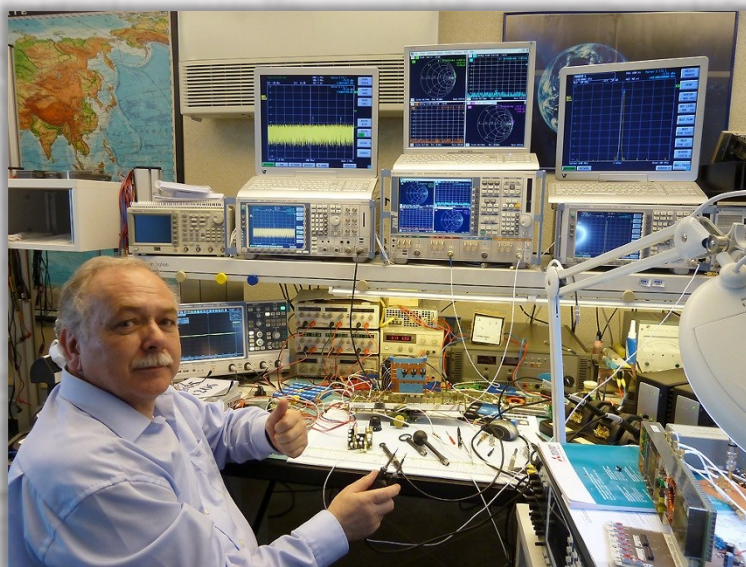
Hidden Word Contest

Somewhere in this edition of the Logger's Bark is a hidden word. If you are the first to find that word and report it to your Editor, you will win a free QRZ Sticker mailed to you! **This month's word is Hilberling!** It will be hiding in a sentence—just tell your editor via email what the word is and the page and you will win if you are the first! (*THIS page* doesn't count!)

HILBERLING HOCHFREQUENZTECHNIK

(High-Frequency Technology) is a German high-tech company founded in 1988. They are a developer and manufacturer of a broad range of RF related products for commercial use as well as amateur radio. The PT-8000A Transceiver was introduced in 2014 and is still a current product today. Most hams have likely never even heard of Hilberling and for good reason: the PT-8000A retails for just shy of \$20,000 with all options (entry price is around \$17,500). But if you have to ask, you likely can't afford it! I've never used one nor heard one on the air. And many of the reviews consider it to be lackluster in some ways. But if you must have the most expensive, the PT-8000A is for you! ■ -editor

Hans Hilberling DK7LG



Here is OM Hans Hilberling himself, **DK7LG**, at his home laboratory in the midst of development work for future products. Hans has been involved in many aspects of the development of radio communications not just in amateur radio, but in many other fields involving RF communications. ■ -editor



Hilberling PT-8000A VLF/HF/VHF Ham Radio Transceiver—\$17,500 and up!

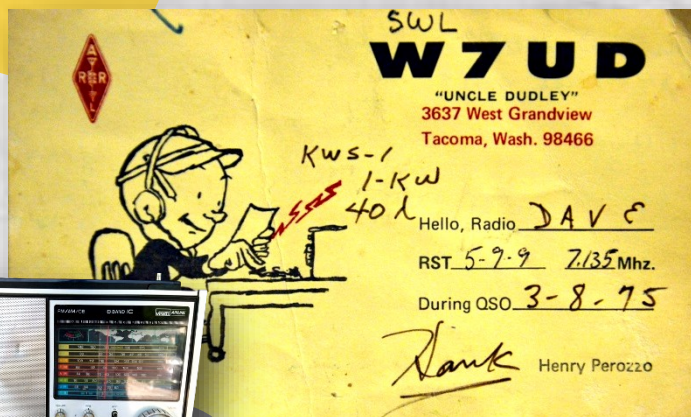
STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fun stuff for Hams to read!



W7UUU

QSL Card of the Month



He was just super nice and encouraging, and asked if I wanted to come over! Boy, did I!

I asked Dad if he'd drive me over, and being in a good mood that day, he said sure. So from first hearing **W7UD** calling CQ on 40m CW to having lunch with Hank and Beth at their home was just over an hour! He instantly became an "Elmer" mentor to me, and remained so until his death in May of 2004. He handed me my first-ever QSL card—an SWL card—and I didn't even know what my call sign would be for 9 more days! (**WN7AWK**) His shack was the very first real-life shack I ever saw, and I took a picture with Mom's camera I brought "just in case" only moments after I got this card. It was on this day, this photo, and this SWL card, that my ham radio life began.

-Dave **W7UUU**

SINCE I RECEIVED NO QSL submissions this month, I thought I would run another one of my own that's pretty special. I passed my Novice tests (CW and written) in December 1974, but wouldn't receive my license and know my call sign until it finally arrived by mail on March 17, 1975! That's how long it took back then. On Saturday morning, March 8, 1975, I was tuning my Dad's Montgomery Wards portable shortwave radio on 40 meters (with no BFO) and came across a *booming* CW signal at 7.135 MHz. I didn't need a BFO to copy the loud rushing code-as-static sound of "CQ CQ CQ DE **W7UD**".

Somehow I had come into a [1973 Callbook](#) (the "QRZ lookup" magazine of the day!) and I looked up **W7UD**—delighted to find he lived only a few miles away (hence the huge signal—I later learned he was running a kilowatt). Once I had his name it was a small matter to grab the Tacoma, WA phonebook and look up his number.

I called, and his wife Beth answered, and handed me to Hank, **W7UD**. It had only been 30 minutes since I copied his code and here I was talking to him on the phone!



Photo by: Dave, soon to be **WN7AWK**

*The first hamshack I ever saw! That of Hank **W7UD**. I later came to own every piece of gear in this picture... alas, I didn't hang onto it over the years, unfortunately*

W7DK LIVING HISTORIES

Member video interviews and profiles



BACK IN 2015, when I was helping to organize the W7DK Centennial Banquet and Celebration, I asked about possibly recording video interviews of club members for future generations to learn more about those that came before them. However, that plan like so many things in life, sort of slipped by the wayside and I truly regret not revisiting such a project much sooner.

The fairly recent loss of our most senior member, Worth Gurley, **W7WG**, a true friend to all who knew him and to strangers alike, reminded me of the extreme importance of capturing aspects of our members lives and involvements not in only ham radio, but also with the Radio Club of Tacoma.

So I've finally got that "round TUIT" that I should have found sooner and have embarked on recording what I am calling the W7DK Living Histories Project. For this effort I video a short (15-20 minute) interview with our members in a free-form format to allow them to share some insights into how they came to amateur radio, and how they became involved with the Radio Club of Tacoma.

So far I have produced a small number of these

videos but it's an ongoing process, and I hope to continue until all members who wish to participate have had a chance to do so.

One of the challenges of any such project is where to store the data that is the encoding result of all the video that is produced and edited. If stored on a local computer such as at home it is subject to the failures we all know can happen: fire,

electronic failure, physical loss (where did I put that hard drive?) or other calamities. Storing at the clubhouse doesn't fare any better in the long run.

So the videos are being uploaded to YouTube, where they have a strong chance of remaining there for a

great many years to come. Several are already uploaded, with several more in editing and more on top of that slated to shoot.

I hope to record such histories of ALL members who wish to tell their stores—please contact me if you would like to participate.

Please enjoy this series of videos, with a new link every month. Click the image to watch the video.

-Dave **W7UUU**

W7DK Living Histories Project #10



Click picture to watch the video



The 100% homebrew ham shack of Mark **K5AM** (not an RCT member). The homebrew transceiver (the main 40 MHz IF section) sits between the two laptops. The level with 3.5 inch panels holds L>R: the 6 meter transverter, the 2 meter transverter, and the computer interface. The level with the 7 inch panels holds L>R: a 100 watt 6 meter amplifier, a 200 watt 2 meter amplifier, and the 150 watt HF front-end section of the transceiver. Not shown in this camera shot is a small 50 MHz amplifier, built while in high-school in 1951, and still in constant use today.

To the right is the 6 foot rack with kW amplifiers for 6M (1961, large dials, two large meters), HF (1971, three counter dials, four small meters), and 2M (1995, five square meters). Photo via www.zianet.com/k5am/stn.html

TNT THE NEW HOT THING

Hot and new products to think about



W7UUU



New! From ICOM HF/50 MHz TRANSCEIVER IC-7760

This new rig from Icom was recently hyped in advance of the [August 2024 Tokyo Ham Fair](#), with a black cloak over the radio and the cryptic name X60. The whole ham universe (well at least a few of them) were waiting with baited breath for the big reveal, which finally came in the form of a live video event on August 24th from the event. The new model is called the IC-7760.

At first blush, it's just a slight upgrade from the IC-7610, featuring 200 watts output, 4 switchable antenna connectors, and a separate control head and RF deck that can be removed. Other interesting features include built-in FT8 operation (no computer needed), and contest exchange automatic incrementing function... although most conesters handle serial number increment/decrement via their logging and control software, not a button on the display. And before getting too excited over the 200 watt output—that's a mere 3 dB increase which equates to one-half S-unit on the receiving end. It sounds good on paper but doesn't make that much difference in reality.

With a retail price as announced of around \$6100 (and could likely go higher upon actual release), the intended market seems a little murky. It's a *bit* of an upgrade from the super-popular IC-7610 with the higher power and a suggestion of having a “detachable” face, certainly. But does it really offer so much new that a 7610 user would go for the upgrade?

The detached control head does offer one significant advantage for some users: it can be linked through the network and the radio as a whole can be used throughout the whole house while moving the head about as desired (with the RF deck remote-mounted near the antenna access). But the network used for this must be *wired* via CAT5e (or better) Ethernet cable—it's *not* wireless. So there's a bit of infrastructure that would need to be installed if not already available.

Other oddness: the external monitor port, while being DVI and not HDMI (which some hams object to) connects to the head, not the RF deck as well. And as far as the advance announcement, there's zero mention of any new performance enhancements such as drastically better receiver or improved noise rejection as many hams awaiting this new product had hoped to see. Odd there's no new features that involve improvements to the actual performance—only the ergonomics & power.

One thing that bothers me are the many comments I've read calling the control head “detachable” when in fact, it never actually attaches! It's much like the control head for the Icom IC-7100 in that it's simply a separate unit that must sit on the desk, with lots of wires in back! My bottom line is this seems to be a product with features that no one is asking for, and simply competes with Icom's own IC-7610 but at a much higher price.

Read on for the full story from Icom.

(Continued on page 75)

[Click to visit the Manufacturer's Site](#)

TNT THE NEW HOT THING

Hot and new products to think about



W7UUU

The following are selected highlights quoted from Icom Japan following this recent announcement—subject to change of course -Dave W7UUU

A New Innovative Shack Style

In today's connected world, the IC-7760 introduces a new connected system consisting of a remote control head and RF deck, connected with a commercially available control (LAN) cable. This concept increases the flexibility of your station installation, making more space available on the desktop by placing the RF deck in an area closer to the antenna feed point. In addition to the direct connect feature, control head to RF deck, utilize your home network to make any tabletop your shack and a PC is not required!

Flexible In-house Remote Operation

The IC-7760 consists of a separate remote control head and RF deck and uses a LAN cable for connecting between them. It increases the flexibility of the installation. A control cable (3 m, 9.8 ft) is supplied with the transceiver, and a commercially available LAN cable* can be used to install the RF deck in a more remote location. It enables the RF deck to be placed in a rack or other location away from the station desktop, providing a quiet shack environment away from the noise of the fan used to dissipate the heat generated by the RF deck.

* LAN cable: Cat5e or higher. Cable length: Maximum 100 m, 328 ft

Dual, Independent Receivers

The IC-7760 has independent MAIN/SUB receivers, from the antenna to the speaker, so that one receiver section has no effect on the other, providing simultaneous reception of two signals in different bands/modes with identical performance. As with the IC-7851, dual spectrum scopes provide simultaneous display of the MAIN and SUB bands allowing the operator to see the changing band conditions.

200 W Output 100% Duty Cycle

The IC-7760 uses a 450 W-class 65 V LDMOS-FET in the PA section, combined with a large heat sink and effective cooling system to achieve a generous 200 W full power full duty operation*. Continuous FT8 mode operation is also possible. Furthermore, modulation and frequency conversion are made through digital signal processing, the D/A converter directly outputs the transmit frequency, achieving the purest transmission C/N. By using 450 W FETs device in 200 W output, the PA achieves excellent IMD characteristics.

**200 W and 1 hour continuous transmission with 100 V AC input (at ambient temperature 25 C.)*



RF Deck Front

[Click to visit the Manufacturer's Site](#)

TNT THE NEW HOT THING

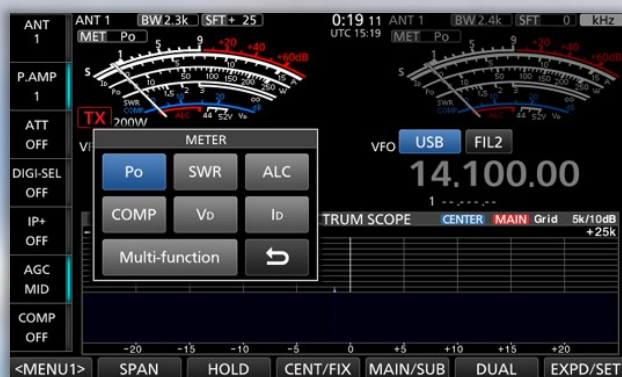
Hot and new products to think about



W7UUU

Dual Display Operation

The IC-7760 control head has main and sub dual displays. The displays are one 7-inch-wide main display (800 × 480 pixels, WVGA) and one 2.4-inch sub display (320 × 240 pixels) and both display are touch screens. The main display shows information necessary for operation, including MAIN/SUB operating frequencies, setting/operating status of each function, as well as the spectrum scope, S-meter, and RTTY/PSK31/63 decoding messages.



Full Control Head and RF Deck Functions

The IC-7760 is also equipped with dual speakers. By separating the MAIN/SUB audio into left and right speakers, respectively, distinguishing the audio during Dual-watch operation is improved. MAIN/SUB audio can set for stereo or mono output from both speakers.



Automatic Contest Serial Numbering

This function is powerful in CW and RTTY contests. Each time the pre-programmed memory is transmitted, the serial number is automatically counted from 001. The serial number can be set in multiple locations to ensure that the contest number is reliably copied.

■ - Icom Japan excerpts

RTTY MEMORY				1/2
RT1	MYCALLx2	↓DE ICOM ICOM K↓	AUTO TX/RX	▲
RT2	MYCALLx3	↓DE ICOM ICOM ICOM K↓	AUTO TX/RX	
RT3	QSLUR599	↓QSL UR 599 001 001 BK↓	AUTO TX/RX	▼
RT4	DE+UR599	↓DE ICOM ICOM UR 599 001 001 BK↓	AUTO TX/RX	
RT5	73 GL SK	↓73 GL SK↓	AUTO TX/RX	
RT6	CQ CQ CQ	↓CQ CQ CQ DE ICOM ICOM ICOM K↓	AUTO TX/RX	↶



- 1 RF Deck Connector
- 2 External Display Connector (DVI-D)
- 3 USB Connectors
- 4 External Keypad Jack
- 5 Electronic Keyer Jack
- 6 SEND Control Jack
- 7 LINE IN/OUT Jacks
- 8 External Speaker Jacks
- 9 DC IN Jack



- 1 Antenna Connectors
- 2 Transverter Connector (BNC)
- 3 RX Antenna IN/OUT Connectors (BNC)
- 4 Reference Frequency Input (10 MHz)
- 5 Tuner Control Socket
- 6 Control Head Connector
- 7 LAN (Ethernet) Connector
- 8 CI-V Remote Control Jack
- 9 Key Jack
- 10 ALC Input Jack
- 11 SEND Control Jack
- 12 Accessory Sockets
- 13 USB Connector (I/Q OUT)
- 14 Ground Terminal
- 15 AC Power Socket
- 16 Main Power Switch

W7OS DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

Featured Gear from the Museum

Dave W7UUU



ONE OF THE TRULY ICONIC RIGS in the W7OS Museum at the W7DK Clubhouse is the [Harvey Wells TBS-50A](#) transmitter. Harvey-Wells Electronics Corporation was founded by Clifford Harvey W1RF (SK) and John Wells W1ZD (SK) in 1939. While the company would go on to produce a fair number of amateur radio products, their all-time best seller was the series collectively called the TBS-50 “Junior” Bandmaster. There were multiple versions of the TBS-50—the first being just that—no letters after the number. A later much-improved TBS-50C (“Senior”) and D (“Deluxe”) model offered a number of refinements including a built-in modulator for AM (the original, the A, and the B did not have this, only a provision on the rear panel to add an external modulator). The A model was just a slight circuit improvement over the original.

All of the TBS Bandmaster transmitters required an external power supply—the [APS-50](#) was the model that Harvey-Wells offered but in researching this transmitter, it seems it was pretty common for hams to simply “roll their own”. The requirements were pretty basic: 6.3v @ 5A for the filaments, and 450v @ 250 mA for the HV supply.

Band coverage for the series was the same for each model: 80-10 on HF as well as 6m and 2m. But the manual warns, “operation on the 144 mc. band requires certain considerations. Because the 807 tube doubles to this band, and because it is outside the normal range of the tube, the plate efficiency is very low and for this reason the plate voltage must be limited to 300 volts in order to not exceed the plate dissipation of the tube”.

The front panel offers two crystal sockets—the upper one being for standard FT-243-style ham crystals; the lower is an older less-used crystal format, in holders designed to fit into a 5-pin tube socket such as that for an 807 tube. And in fact, both sockets on the TBS



The club's TBS-50A
Transmitter
Photo: W7UUU



Cliff Harvey W1RF at his rig on Fiske Hill, Sturbridge, MA in the late 1960s. Photo: Dick Whitney

W70S DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

Featured Gear from the Museum

Dave W7UUU



(Continued from page 77)

transmitters are actually phenolic tube sockets pressed into service as the crystal holders!

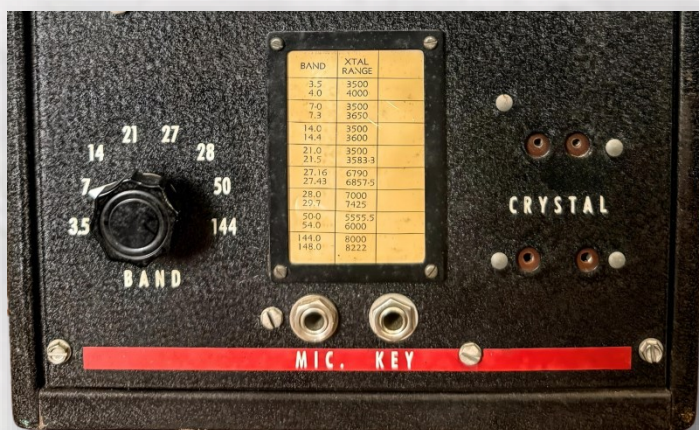
While the tank coil was set up to load into a wide range of impedances from 50 to 500 ohms, it was unbalanced so intended to work with either end-fed wires or to use coaxial cable. However, there was no provision for an SO-239 coax connector. And at that, the manual states, *“some antenna feeder systems on 3.5 and 7 mc. will require an external variable receiving-type condenser connected between the antenna post”*. The TBS-50A in the club museum is set up exactly that way, and in reading about this rig, just about every one of them out there needed extra capacitance from the antenna post to ground in order to load the lower bands.

Tube lineup is basic: 6AQ5 oscillator & multiplier, 6AQ5 additional multiplier, and a single 807 final output tube for a total RF input of around 50 watts AM and CW (which works out to around 25 to 30 watts actual RF output). While the manual doesn't state performance on the 6 and 2 meter bands, it's pretty safe to assume it would be about half on 6 and significantly less on 2 simply due to gross inefficiencies at higher frequencies.

Original selling price ranged from introduction at \$99.50 to a high before being discontinued by the early 1950s of \$121.50 or about \$1400 today.

The Harvey-Wells TBS Bandmasters have been beloved by hams for years—just their iconic vertical styling and “old world charm” alone earn a lot of points. Every few years, the club pulls the TBS-50A out of the closet to fire up either for Classic Exchange or Straight Key night so keep an eye out for it to be ready for action one cold winter night in the not-too-distant future.

-Dave W7UUU



Front panel showing the band switch and crystal socket placements



Rear view showing the recommended added variable capacitor for use on the low bands

ANTENNA TIME

A Limited Space Antenna

By Cornelius DO1FER, Braunschweig, Germany



THIS MONTH'S ANTENNA TIME ARTICLE is a guest submission from a reader in Germany, Cornelius **DO1FER**, with whom I've become acquainted recently as he has been following *The Logger's Bark* on [QRZ.com](https://www.qrz.com). He expressed that where he lives, he just doesn't have the luxury of vast spaces of land for antennas like some of us in the United States have—although a great many U.S. hams have very similar situations—extremely limited space, or HOA restrictions limiting antenna installation to a great degree. Things are not necessarily better here any more than in Germany, for some. But I thought it would be educational for us to hear the perspective of a *Logger's Bark* reader from another country on another continent to hear his take on the matter, and how he chose to deal with it. Big thanks to Cornelius **DO1FER** for taking the time to craft this article for us here at W7DK. ■ -editor

SO I NEEDED TO LAUNCH AN ANTENNA PROJECT

to deal with my very limited-space antenna situation here at my flat in Germany, where space is tight.

Was it to save money? No, not really. The project was driven by a more pressing issue: modern home windows that absorb and/or reflect electromagnetic radiation. These windows render many indoor antenna solutions ineffective due simply to RF absorption and reflection from the metal film inside of them. Going to the roof wasn't an option either. So, I started planning a balcony solution.

I took precise measurements and was careful not to

drill any holes, not to touch anything that might damage the property, and was always very careful to comply with ham radio and other basic safety rules. The west-facing location added a challenge due to harsher weather conditions. I decided on a tripod solution and went with the [HAMA Star 63](#), originally designed for cameras. It had the right specifications for what I needed.

The tripod's camera mount, however, was permanently attached, so I had to *saw through* the middle of the aluminum tube to remove it! This created another issue: finding the right clamp. The one I had wasn't wide enough to provide the necessary stability. To solve this, I sawed and drilled a thin steel bar to reinforce the clamp from behind.

The antenna itself ([Falcon Outback 2012](#)) widens at the bottom, which posed another challenge.



Falcon antenna on tripod on **DO1FER**'s balcony

ANTENNA TIME

A Limited Space Antenna

By Cornelius DO1FER, Braunschweig, Germany



I had to find something to stabilize it between the tube and the antenna to keep it upright. The tripod, now repurposed and a bit misused, certainly wasn't designed for this. But it has been holding up in various weather conditions so far. The tripod's feet naturally adapt to the ground, and though it can extend from 66 cm to 166 cm (26" to 65"), I only use about 1 meter (39") of height.

Why this setup? The Outback 2012 antenna is a multiband antenna that covers everything from 80m to 2m, including 6m and 4m (a band only available mostly in or near the EU). It's quite versatile and especially fun to use with an SDR. There are also many options to experiment with, especially antenna tuners.

The antenna is like a Swiss Army knife—it's not just limited to ham radio use but for SWL use also.

But then came the question: how do I bring the signal inside my flat? (apartment). For that, I use the [Diamond Antenna MGC-50](#), which works well from HF up to SHF. It handles 150W SSB on HF, 50W PEP on

FM/CW, 40W PEP on 2M, and 30W PEP on 70cm.

Installing it requires a *modern* window frame.

Older wooden frames with metal plates might cause problems. The

MGC-50 isn't just a flat band—it's much more. The cable is specially designed for stability, and both ends have sealed boxes with PL connectors.

The [Falcon Outback 2012 antenna](#) is a little bit of a mystery. In fact its based on a massive adjustable coil, with an adjustable whip. Coverage is listed as 80m through 2m—quite the spread! The manual just gives approximate values for the different bands to configure the coil and the whip. The rest is *trial and error* and may be better to determine with a digital antenna analyzer such as those from Rig Expert or other brands that can perform a "sweep" of band coverage.

SO ... How well does it all work?

Personally, my best experience isn't on HF but rather on the higher bands. On the low ham bands, the signals aren't all that great. It's rather all over the board, just depending. Signals from before, which came in with S9+ are now lower. But the signals are really strong at other times, and it seems that the antenna picks up any crumb of the right signal and excludes QRM—just depending on conditions. Stations come in now, which was not possible before—so it certainly does seem to work for me.

I compared operation from my HF rig with a small [TECSUN PL-365](#) and decoded incoming digital signals using [Fldigi](#). The stations I copied were around 1500 up to 2500 km away, in the 40M band. To un-



ANTENNA TIME

A Limited Space Antenna

By Cornelius DO1FER, Braunschweig, Germany



derstand the gain of the antenna, you would really have to calculate. Nobody really gets the right values that are repeatable and reliable... I found some at the [Wattwächter](#) from the [BNetzA](#). They measured the Out-backer with a gain of -6 dBi at 3.65 MHz and -0.5 dBi at 14.2 MHz.

The antenna seems to be linear, so that the other values are solved using the "[compound rule of three](#)". Solving thusly means that at the 10M band the gain is around +1.68 dBi and at 2M +8.39 dBi.

All in all, this VERY limited antenna is for hams and SW listeners with very limited space problems and just want SOME sort of antenna to listen in at the least, and maybe even transmit if so licensed... and learn just how far the airwaves will bring in the operators around the world.

-Cornelius DO1FER



Big thanks to Cornelius, DO1FER, for his guest contribution to this month's *Logger's Bark* magazine. ■ -editor

WHY

THE GOTHAM VERTICAL ANTENNA IS THE BEST ALL-BAND ANTENNA

- Absolutely no guying needed.
- Radials not required.
- Only a few square inches of space needed.
- Four metal mounting straps furnished.
- Special B & W loading coil furnished.
- Every vertical is complete, ready for use.
- Mount it at any convenient height.
- No relays, traps, or gadgets used.
- Accepted design—in use for many years.
- Many thousands in use the world over.
- Simple assembly, quick installation.
- Non-corrosive aluminum used exclusively.
- Multi-band, V80 works 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6.
- Ideal for novices, but will handle a Kw.
- Will work with any receiver and xmitter.
- Overall height 23 feet.
- Uses one 52 ohm coax line.
- An effective modern antenna, with amazing performance. Your best bet for a lifetime antenna at an economical price.

73
GOTHAM

DO YOU KNOW

1. YOU WILL HAVE NO DIFFICULTY INSTALLING YOUR GOTHAM VERTICAL ANTENNA IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS, REGARDLESS OF YOUR PARTICULAR PROBLEM, SO ORDER WITH CONFIDENCE EVEN IF YOU HAVE RESTRICTED SPACE OR A DIFFICULT SITUATION.
2. LOADING COIL NOT REQUIRED ON 6, 10, 15 AND 20 METERS. FOR 40, 80, AND 160 METERS, LOADING COIL TAPS ARE CHANGED MANUALLY EXCEPT IF A WIDE-RANGE PI-NETWORK OUTPUT OR AN ANTENNA TUNER IS USED; IN THIS CASE BAND CHANGING CAN BE DONE FROM THE SHACK.
3. EVERY GOTHAM ANTENNA IS SOLD ON A TEN DAY TRIAL BASIS. IF YOU ARE NOT FULLY SATISFIED, YOU MAY RETURN THE ANTENNA PREPAID FOR FULL REFUND OF THE PURCHASE PRICE. THIS IS YOUR GUARANTEE OF FULL SATISFACTION.

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☐ V40 VERTICAL ANTENNA FOR 40, 20, 15, 10 AND 6 METER BANDS.....\$14.95

THE V40 IS ALSO MADE FOR CITIZENS BAND OPERATION, WITH SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS. DESIGNATE CB-11 ANTENNA. PRICE SAME AS THE V40

☐ V80 VERTICAL ANTENNA FOR 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 AND 6 METER BANDS. MOST POPULAR OF THE VERTICALS. USED BY THOUSANDS OF NOVICES, TECHNICIANS, AND GENERAL LICENSE HAMMS...\$16.95

☐ V160 VERTICAL ANTENNA FOR 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 AND 6 METER BANDS. SAME AS THE OTHER VERTICAL ANTENNAS, EXCEPT THAT A LARGER LOADING COIL PERMITS OPERATION ON THE 160 METER BAND ALSO.....\$18.95

HOW TO ORDER: Send check or money order directly to Gotham. Immediate shipment by Railway Express, charges collect. Foreign orders accepted.

Name.....

Address.....

City..... Zone..... State.....

THE GOTHAM VERTICAL holds its place in ham history as the most overhyped overmarketed antenna ever! All bands, no radials, handles QRP to KW power, "amazing performance", with ads hyping claims such as "FLASH: Switched to 15 meters and worked Canal Zone"! These ads proliferated in 73, CQ, and QST for a number of years—as a young ham in 1974 looking at ads in old magazines, I too yearned for the amazing performance of this miracle antenna—but never owned one. Instead, my first "real antenna" was a Hustler 4BTV 4-band vertical with radials—an antenna that has truly stood the test of time—performs well and still sold today, unlike the Gotham.

■ -editor



Little tips for when

you get a round TUIT!

Top 10 Worldwide Ham Radio Contests

Upcoming Ham Fests in the Area

The following is a summary of the most popular *WORLDWIDE* ham radio contests that take place each year. The data is a few years old, but in looking at multiple such reports, it's pretty consistent. Scoring is based on number of logs received (right column).

Source: [Stack Exchange](#) ■ -editor

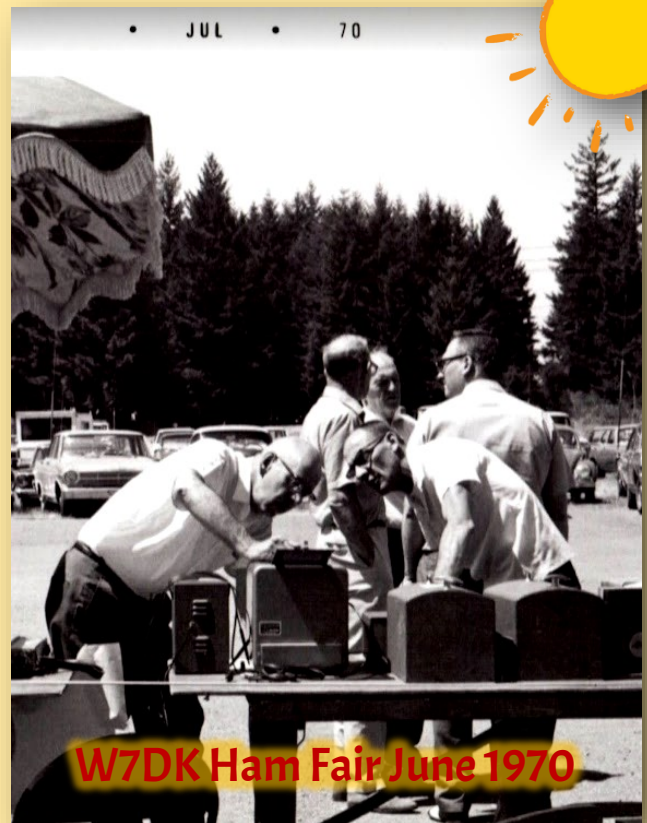
1	CQ Worldwide CW	Last full W/E November	7,821
2	CQ Worldwide SSB	Last full W/E October	7,741
3	CQ WPX SSB	Last full W/E March	7,604
4	CQ WPX CW	Last full W/E May	5,912
5	Russian DX Contest SSB/CW	3rd full W/E March	5,212
6	IARU-HF Champ'shp SSB/CW	2nd full W/E July	4,354
7	ARRL DX CW	3rd full W/E February	4,136
8	CQ Worldwide RTTY	4th full W/E September	3,103
9	CQ WPX RTTY	2nd full W/E February	3,088
10	ARRL DX SSB	1st full W/E March	3,062

October 3-4-5. Microwave Update/Western Canada Weak Signal Association/Pacific Northwest VHF Society Conference. Vancouver, BC.

<http://www.pnwvhfs.org/>

October 19. Kitsap County ARC Ham-fest. Bremerton, WA. <https://kcarc.org/hamfest/>

October 19. Swaptoberfest. Rickreall, OR. www.swaptoberfest.com



W7DK Ham Fair June 1970

Listings courtesy: Lynn Burlingame www.N7CFO.com

HAM TECH 101

-By Jim Peisker, **AF5NP**
Used with Permission

Useful tech info for newer hams and old

SO WHY "73"?? Where does that come from?

SO WHY DO HAMS SAY 73—what's it all about?

Usually near the end of an amateur radio conversation (QSO) the phrase "seven three" or "seventy three" will be heard. New hams or unlicensed listeners will probably wonder, 73 *what?* Here is more of that ham-speak stuff we are learning about and this terminology has a very particular meaning.

73 simply means, "Best Regards". It is a very common phrase used on the radio in voice, Morse code (CW), and data communication modes and is often used in emails and handwritten notes between hams. 73 is considered a polite and friendly way of signing off all forms of communications between hams or as a general show of respect.

The origins of 73 are not absolutely certain, but the prevailing idea that it is a remnant of 1870s American telegraph codes is supported by historical documents. Samuel Morse's code originally was a large body of numbers, and a codebook was used to determine which phrase was meant by which number. 73 is a remnant of that early Morse code. If you look it up in one of the old code tables, you'd see "Best Regards" for the number 73. If you search you'll find a long list of numeric codes that represent common phrases that would be sent in telegraphy. [It was Alfred Vail who drastically altered Morse's code to what we know today—there's a [full article on this elsewhere in this issue](#) of *The Bark*—ed.].

This saved the operators time by simply sending a one- or two-digit code instead of translating letters. Because early amateur radio adopted Morse code from the world of the telegraph, hams adopted a handful of those prac-

tices and codes. 73 is one of the few codes that have survived a hundred years of ham radio history, along with judiciously-used 88 (love and kisses). In recent years, it has become common for QRP (low power) operators to exchange 72 to suggest "less power".

For a fun and interesting look at origins of 73, a great reference for this and many other obscure ham things is found at the [Origins of Ham Speak site by AC6V](#). One legend holds that 73 derives from respecting someone so much that you would pass along your valued 1873 Winchester rifle to them. Hogwash, but fun to read. That site is also referenced in our Links page under Origins of Ham Things. Hilberling

73 is particularly meaningful in CW mode where the Morse characters form a palindrome (reads the same backwards and forwards). 7 is dah-dah-dit-dit-dit and 3 is dit-dit-dit-dah-dah. So 73 is sent (— • • • • • — —). When CW hams hear this they don't think of a number; instead they know that the other guy is sending his regards and wrapping up a QSO.

By the way, 73 is a singular code so the plural form doesn't make sense. You would not write, "Best Regards's", so proper usage is *not* 73s, it is simply 73.

73—Jim Peisker **AF5NP**



This column is reprinted with permission of Jim **AF5NP** from his blog www.NEWHAMS.info
References to FCC question numbers may be out of date but the content will still be accurate

GEAR

Guest Columnist: Dave Jensen W7DGJ



HAMS LOVE TO ARGUE ABOUT ANTENNAS

Does it seem to you that the antenna is closely tied to our emotions and "radio ego"? While I have indeed run into brand zealots ("Icom vs. Yaesu" or vice versa) on social media, that bothers me a lot less than when someone comes out and disses my choice of antenna. I've learned that you don't brag on your antenna too much or you'll get nailed!

I thought that it would be interesting to put a vertical in my yard to challenge a dipole I've used for years. After all, both are common and everyone who has ever installed a dipole or vertical will tell you that it has great bang-for-the-buck. Of course, neither will perform like a tower and multi-element beam . . . but they are the choice of thousands because they take up little space and are affordable.

For the vertical antenna, I chose the [Xiegu VG4](#), a four-band antenna (10m-15m-20m-40m) requiring no additional radials. While verticals go up nice and easy, the addition of 20 or more wires on the ground (some have as many as 60 radials) makes it more of a chore and cranks up the price when you consider today's cost of wire. Where I live (Arizona) the ground is unforgiving. Digging is no pleasure when the ground is like

concrete! Plus, we have the "critter factor" . . . if I decided to just lay the wire down on the ground, it would only be days for it to be nibbled to death.

The Buckmaster OCF

I compared this vertical with my existing, multiband [OCF dipole produced by Buckmaster](#). It's very popular but it has its detractors as well.

There are many who don't like it that someone sells a wire antenna at close to \$400. But my user experiences make this a good choice; like the design or not, it should compete nicely with the vertical.

The Xiegu VG4

I have mixed experiences with Chinese-made ham products, starting with my first Baofeng. My [Xiegu G90](#), a small HF transceiver that has quite a following, convinced me that Chinese manufacturers could make a good product if they wanted. I assumed that an antenna from the same manufacturer would be a good bet.

The product arrived quickly, shipped from the USA in a sturdy container that can be sent by UPS.

The build quality on this antenna is terrific, and I have no concerns about durability in our tough Arizona climate. I found the instructions for assembly to be almost completely unusable until I was told



Xiegu VG4 4-band vertical Photo: Xiegu



GEAR

Guest Columnist: Dave Jensen W7DGJ



about an update available on the Radiooddity website.

The VG4 goes together quickly -- each part is numbered to make your job easier. The initial issues I had with the vertical were caused by the poor instructions. I found the quality of parts to be excellent, but there was no description of how far each tube is supposed to slide into the other. It would sure make it easier to assemble if Xiegu were to put marks or tape at the point in which the antenna has an approximate match to a "tuned up" position. Instead, after assembly I picked up the antenna off my workbench and it immediately broke in half (the tubes were not extended far enough into their neighboring tube.)

Luckily, the components are constructed of quality material and I was able to tap them back into shape and reinsert the tubes further into one another. As far as SWR goes, on the Xiegu vertical you adjust each band by sliding the tubes in and out until you get the match you are looking for. The VG4 has wide matches on 10 and 15 (1.1 and 1.3-to-1 respectively across the whole band). Specific areas of the bands are resonant on 20 and 40, where I was able to get 1.2-to-1 at the center of 20m and 1.4-to-1 at the middle of 40m.

You can't tune this antenna at a comfortable distance off the ground -- it's got to keep going up and down your mast as you fine-tune, which makes it a bit of a chore.

Using Both Antennas

I've had previous experience with vertical antennas. I was expecting, based on other designs, that the Xiegu would be noisier in receive mode. The first thing I noticed, however, was the opposite. The VG4 is *quiet*. Switching over my dead-air to the Buckmaster, I noticed that while neither antenna was noisy, I could hear more static crashes on the wire with a noise floor just a tad higher than the vertical.

Still in receive, I scanned the bands and found that



Xiegu VG4 as installed at author's QTH.

Inset: VG4 Match Box Photos by W7DGJ

GEAR

Guest Columnist: Dave Jensen



the Buckmaster pulled in stronger signals in the North to South axis of its radiation pattern. But when trying to hear Northern Europe, the vertical pulled in solidly and considerably stronger than the wire. The vertical is much more omnidirectional, something I definitely need at my shack. I found myself selecting the antenna based more on the region of the world I am targeting. Most QSOs couldn't tell much difference between the two antennas, except for when I goosed the Mercury LUX and gave the wire my full legal limit. (VG4 has an upper limit of a Kilowatt).

In Conclusion

For a local 40m net, the vertical seemed to provide better ground-wave communication. For a far-off DX station within the propagation pattern of my wire, the Buckmaster would take the prize. But for DX in a different part of the world impacted by the Buckmaster's severe null fall-off, I often switch over to the VG4.

Which antenna gets my recommendation? The Buckmaster clearly has an advantage in power handling (3000w versus 1000w with the Xiegu) so whenever I need to hit the "max" button on my amp, I'm on the wire. But the quiet receive and omnidirectional results that the VG4 provides on four important bands are attractive additions to my shack. I'm sold, and it's definitely on my list to recommend when friends ask me about vertical antennas. Here's a product that just might change your mind about that "Made in China" stamp on the box.

73 for now,

-Dave **W7DGJ**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dave Jensen, W7DGJ, was first licensed in 1966. Originally **WN7VDY** (and later **WA7VDY**), Dave operated on 40 and 80 meter CW with a shack that consisted primarily of Heathkit equipment. Dave loved

radio so much he went off to college to study broadcasting and came out with a BS in Communications from Ohio University (Athens, OH). He worked his way through a number of audio electronics companies after graduation, including the professional microphone business for Audio-Technica. He was later licensed as **W7DGJ** out of Scottsdale, Arizona, where he ran an executive recruitment practice (CareerTrax Inc.) for several decades. Jensen has published articles in magazines dealing with science and engineering. His column "Tooling Up" ran for 20 years in the website of the leading science journal, *SCIENCE*, and his column called **Trials and Errors: Ham Life with an Amateur** continues to be a popular read each month on QRZ.com

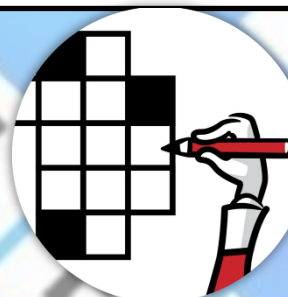
Read Dave's column at:

<https://www.qrz.com/trials-and-errors>

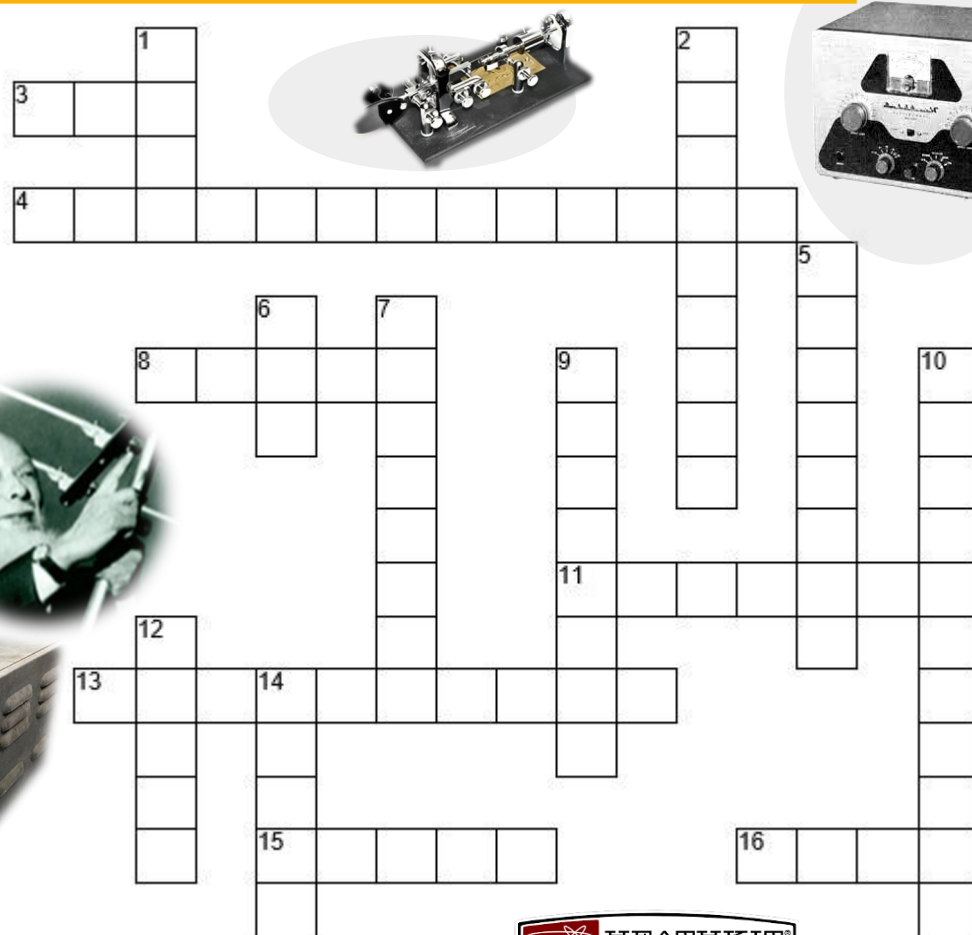


FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.



Crossword Challenge! Print this page to play!



Across

3. Mr. Yagi got all the press but it was his engineer friend who did all the hard stuff
4. Mr. Halligan started a radio company and he called it....
8. The Chinese radio brand called Wouxun when pronounced in English sounds just like....
11. _____ Bark
13. Boat anchor receivers designed by Oscar _____
15. Doctor Clifford J. _____
16. The part of a transistor that functions much like the grid of a tube

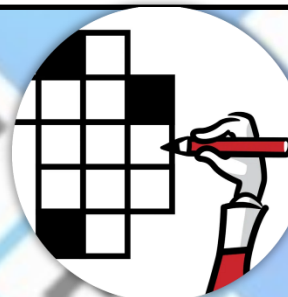
Down

1. Mr. Morse's assistant
2. The biggest brand and best known maker of semi-automatic Morse keys
5. A device used to listen to information sent by radio
6. If you had a radio device called a J-38, what type of device would it be?
7. The fancy name for a coil of wire used in an RF circuit
9. Long before Heath Co. sold electronic kits they sold _____ kits
10. A device used to send information by radio
12. When things are unbalanced but need to be otherwise, this device is what you need
14. The guy who sent "What hath God wrought?" via radio

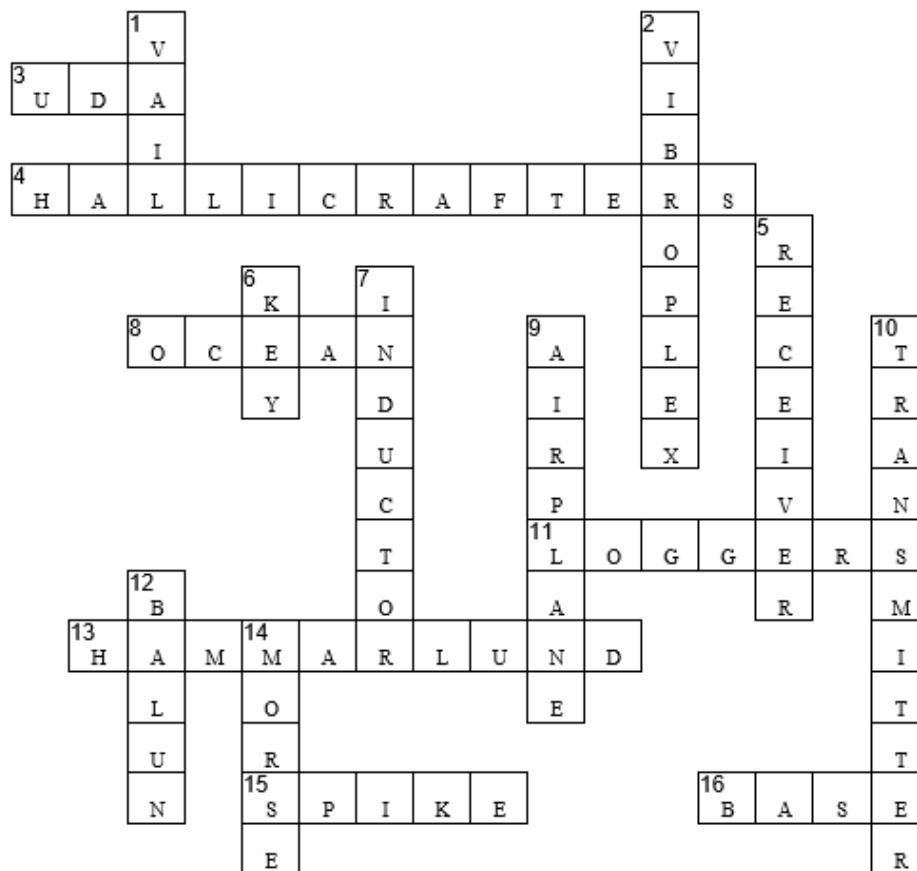


FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.



Answer Key... but don't cheat!



Across

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 4. Mr. Halligan started a radio company and he called it....
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 5. A device used to listen to information sent by radio
 6. If you had a radio device called a J-38, what type of device would it be?
 7. The fancy name for a coil of wire used in an RF circuit
 9. Long before Heath Co. sold electronic kits they sold _____ kits
 10. A device used to send information by radio
 12. When things are unbalanced but need to be otherwise, this device is what you need
 14. The guy who sent "What hath God wrought?" via radio

CLOSING REMARKS



W7DK

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Logger's Bark is the official publication of the Radio Club of Tacoma and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law. All proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98405, phone: 253-759-2040.

EMAILING OFFICERS

To contact any club officer, simply send an email to their call sign @W7DK.org

CONTRIBUTIONS OF ARTICLES & PHOTOS

We WELCOME contributions of articles, guest editorials, blurbs, Hints-and-Kinks, shack photos, QSL cards, memorable contacts, anything of interest to your fellow members. Submit your materials via email to: loggersbark@gmail.com or via US mail to PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411 Nichrome

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA REPEATERS

Central Tacoma 2m: 147.28 + PL Tone 103.5
Central Tacoma 70cm: 440.625 + PL Tone 103.5
Crawford Mountain: 147.380 + PL Tone 103.5
North Tacoma: 145.21 - PL Tone 141.3

The Loggers Bark **does not** accept AI / ChatGPT submissions

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- [Full-time students](#), licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$20 per year.
- Fees are applicable for the calendar year: January to December
- Lifetime [membership](#) is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime [memberships](#) are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.
- Visit www.w7dk.org For the latest and most current information on events and activities

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
CLICK HERE!

HAVE A SUBMISSION FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE?

loggersbark@W7DK.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Radio Club of Tacoma Board of Directors Meeting Minutes August 7th, 2024

Meeting called to order at _____ 1900 _____.

Officers and Directors Present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vice President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secretary	Gary McAdams WG7X
<input type="checkbox"/>	Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Paul Matney W7PFU
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC

NOTE: These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.

Quorum? ☐ Yes ☐

Motion for approval of Minutes as previously distributed: Prez Mike asked for a motion to approve the minutes as circulated. Mike W7MKE made the Motion. Doug AB7DG Seconded. Motion approved.

Silent Key or Illness?

Steve, AF7YD is in hospital as of last week. Nothing serious, just an infection that his doctor wanted taken care of in hospital. He expects to be out later this week. President Mike asked Dan Vacanti to send Steve a get-well card.

President's Note:

President Mike congratulated the Picnic Crew and everyone else who participated in the Picnic. Chef Paul and Red. Thanks to all who brought food and had a good time talking and eating!

Secretary's Report (Gary WG7X)

The usual stuff: bills, bank statements, magazines and QSL cards. Of note this week are a couple of new member applications and One returning Member John Robson AC7LK. John was a member of the club quite a few years ago and has returned to us. Back in the day, John was active in the club. A big welcome back to



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John if you happen to see him.

Treasurer's Report (Steve AF7YD)

Steve is out this week. May have something in time for the General Meeting.

Doug Schafer volunteered to be the Assistant Treasurer and President Mike W7XTZ then appointed Doug as the assistant Treasurer.

Doug and Steve get along well, and this should be a good team effort.

Committee Reports

Membership (Mike W7XH)

Update for membership.

I am traveling, hoping to get massive sun! I will be looking for some POTA fun while I am on the road.

The current membership stands at 331 members. We have seen new associate members as well as previous members returning to the club.

Thanks to our membership for greeting and receiving our guests and new members. It matters! Please encourage members to join us at the general meeting at the Eagles on 70th and Pine. A great venue! Come early at noon, get a beverage and some food. Get to know Angel, she is a sweetie.

I am hoping for a great Salmon Run fundraiser this year. Salmon run letters, and our pledge form will be mailed out on August 7, 2024.

We have:

- Online Membership Application/Renewal with PayPal operational on the website.

- Online ARRL application with PayPal is operational on the website.

- Salmon Run donation form and PayPal donation are operational on the website.

- The Salmon run form needs to be completed and if payment is a one-time donation payment can be made immediately. If you have selected per county or a challenge you can use the Donate with PayPal after the event to complete your pledge.

- Online badge form is operational on the website.

Forms are located on the home page just above the login area.

We have had people take advantage of our lower associate fees and had our very first online membership application processed with PayPal payment.

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Library (Doug AD7AV)

No report. The library committee has a meeting scheduled soon August 22nd 2024.

Training (Stephan AD7AB)

Summer break?

VE (John AC7WW)

Your VE Team traveled South to JBLM and tested 9 Candidates on Friday July 26. Eight new Technicians joined the Amateur Service. One candidate passed the Technician and General exams.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and service.

Rob, K7TGU

Mike, W7XH

Stephen, AD7AB

Steven, AI7QM

The next scheduled test session is Tuesday August 13TH 2024.

Info Tech and Website (Randy WB4SPB)

All systems nominal? Electronic forms are on the website. Just above the login icon on the lower left of the webpage. Mike has processed six new applications since they went live earlier this month. There are apparently still a few bugs in the workflow / data that will be worked out soon.

HF Operations(Phil K7PIA)

Mike W7MKE reports that we had a bit of an ad hoc HF committee meeting where we decided not to repair the 6400M immediately. Al, N7OMS has or will be opening a trouble ticket that will enable Flex radio to investigate the radio online and determine a price or next steps.

Palstar amp is still scheduled to ship on September 22nd.

Tower (Nick K7MO)

Tower updates: Adam W2NCC

The new 40-meter and 80-meter standoffs have been installed on the tower. Other work took place prepping



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the tower for the contractor. Last week in July, team Harrington Arial galvanized the tower. The galvanizing looks great. The anti-climb T1-11 plywood will be replaced. The old material has been removed. The new plywood has been cut and is at the clubhouse, needs to be painted and the mounting hardware transferred. The rope supporting the 40- and 80-meter antenna will be replaced. The rope supporting each antenna leg will be replaced. New Baluns have been ordered.

There is a ground rod at the base of the tower, which is good for the grounding of the tower.

Repeater Ops (AL N7OMS)

AI Sent in this report:

We (RCT) Need to modernize repeater equipment to something made this century.

MTR2000s were made until 2010.

MTR3000s were the replacement and can do DMR.

We need to organize around the Open Repeater project for controllers. ICS controllers for the non-Pi hardware.

We need to discuss digital options. Maybe take one repeater digital, probably the clubhouse 70cm

A recommendation: Keep Crawford, and hammer out an official agreement with Olympia ARES(?) group.

Being sure to consult with Pierce County ARES Before making an agreement.

We need a good coverage map of Bates repeater: Software will work for that and WAARA might have that software.

We should check with WA state surplus equipment, looking for:

- Repeaters
- Test Gear

We want to link all of our repeaters together:

- PSDR HamWAN is much preferred.
- Baldi and Camp Murray are our likely AP stations.

Had a QSO with W7UUU on the Bates repeater and he reported hearing the PL tone on his end and suggested we try another PL tone. Nick also mentioned changing it to be in line with our other repeaters 103.5. AI will investigate how to do this.

AI did go on the WA state surplus equipment and found nothing that we needed. Did see some items that the Club might want like Generators.

The question for the Club is do we have an official person to get the equipment from the state site for free as a non-profit???

Please all get the Bates repeater into your 2-meter stations and use it. I am interested in coverage. We went



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from 7 watts to 70 watts. Should make a difference.

End of Report.

Facilities Management (Adam W2NCC)

A grab bar has been installed in the men's room, and one will be installed in the ladies room soon. Manny washed the carpet in the training room. The back entry ramp has been painted.

Work on the gate is in process.

Shrubbery by the front door has been removed. Mrs. Vacanti, Dan KD7SV's wife, came here to give her advice on the planning around the clubhouse. We are in the process of implementing some of her recommendations. Front porch cinder block will be painted. Also possible is a new front door for the clubhouse. English Walnut tree in the front yard was trimmed back from the roof. Lots of things on the list for the future

Property Management (Red WB7EC)

President Mike W7XTZ suggests that all BOD members read the following motion and the list that follows. Red has the following request/ motion: That the attached August PMT excess equipment list be reviewed for approval for PMT to dispose/recycle of at the August 2024 meeting. Seconded by Gary WG7X. Motion carried.

Red mentions that the estate of Jimmy K7SSS is still in triage. \$270 in equipment sales in July. Red suggests that we hold some of the equipment on this list either for the members or for sale at the Mike & Key swap meet next March.

Discussion followed about PMT management working on a system to systematically label and track PMT items in the garage.

1. RCT 4324 Astatic D-104 Microphone
2. RCT 4325 EF Johnson KW Matchbox Antenna Tuner
3. RCT 4326 Heathkit Monitor Scope HO-10
4. RCT 4327 Icom HF XCVR IC-7300
5. RCT 4328 Buddipole 2-40MHZ Portable Antenna

SN: 2039211

POTA

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6. RCT 4329 Buddipole Pro HF Vertical POTA
7. RCT 4330 Ten Tech HF XCVR Eagle 599 SN: 3055781223
8. RCT 4331 Rig Expert Antenna Analyzer AA-55 SN: 460000035
9. RCT 4332 Elecraft Signal Analyzer P3
10. RCT 4333. Bird thru-line Wattmeter 43/Case 1VHF/1UHF El. SN: 3747
11. RCT 4334 Elecraft KX2
12. RCT 4335 Elecraft KRX3A SN: 10147
13. RCT 4336 MFJ QRP CW XCVR Kit MFJ-9340
14. RCT 4337 Elecraft KX3 Paddle KXPD3
15. RCT 4338 MFJ Keyer Paddle MFJ-564
16. RCT 4339 Vibroplex K7SSS 100th ARRL Bug SN: 304 HF RM
17. RCT 4340 Diamond Cross needle SWR Meter SX-40C
18. RCT 4341 Elecraft RF Signal Source XG3
19. RCT Heil Headphone/microphone Proset
20. RCT 4343 Elecraft mini-20-meter whip Antenna AX2
21. RCT 4344 Elecraft dual band whip Antenna AX1
22. RCT 4345 portable Antenna SWR Analyzer iP60Z
23. RCT 4346 Astron power supply SS-30 SN: 209030089
24. RCT 4347 Rig Expert Stick pro Antenna Analyzer SN: 460000035
25. RCT 4348 Kenwood XCVR TS-480HX
26. RCT 4349 Icom Auto Tuner AH-4
27. RCT 4350 Kenwood 3 Band 144/220/440 MHZ TH-F6
28. RCT 4351 Kenwood 3 Band 144/220/440 MHZ TH-F6
29. RCT 4352 Kenwood HF XCVR TS-590S
30. RCT 4353 Yaesu 50-Watt 2-meter Mobile FT-1500M
31. RCT 4354 Yaesu ALL mode HF/VHF/UHF XCVR FT-897D
32. RCT 4355 Yaesu 65 Watt 2 meter Mobile FT-2800M
33. RCT 4356 Yaesu HF/VHF/UHF XCVR FT-817

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- 34. RCT 4357 Yaesu 2 meter Hand held VX-170
- 35. RCT 4358 Power Werx SW/ Power Supply SS-30DV 25 Amps
- 36. RCT 4359 Kenwood Desk Microphone MC-85
- 37. RCT 4360 Dentron Antenna Tuner 160-AT
- 38. RCT 4361 Kenwood 3 band Handheld TH-75A
- 39. RCT 4362 MFJ-934 Antenna Tuner
- 40. RCT 4363 Elecraft Automatic Antenna Tuner T1
- 41. RCT 4364 Elecraft XCVR PX3/KX3
- 42. RCT 44365 AOR Wide Range Hand Held Receiver AR 8000
- 43. RCT 4366 AOR Wide Range Hand Held Receiver AR 8200
- 44. RCT 4367 Elecraft Bandpass Filter KBPF3A
- 45. RCT 4368 Elecraft Automatic Tuner KAT3A
- 46. RCT 4369 MFJ-564 Lambda Keyer
- 47. RCT 4370 Icom IC-2710 XCVR in a to go kit
- 48. RCT 4371 Yaesu 2 band Hand Held FT-50r
- 49. RCT 4372 MFJ- 986 3KW Roller Antenna Tuner
- 50. RCT 4373 Dentron Antenna Tuner 160-10-AT
- 51. RCT 4374 Samlex Switching Power Supply/ meters SEC 1235M
- 52. RCT 4375 LDG Auto Tuner Z-11
- 53. RCT 4376 Power Werx 25 AMP SW/Power Supply SS-30DV
- 54. RCT 4377 Kenwood Filter Speaker SP-940

Museum (Dan KD7SV)

Dan reports that he has been busy cleaning and re-arranging the museum to make it easier to operate the equipment during club activities. Randy has been modifying our existing power strips to remove the MOV's in them and they are also installing new steel power strips.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



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Planning Committee (Manny AD7MA)

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA PLANNING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION 07/22/2024

Mission Statement

The mission of our club is to support the Board of Directors in establishing objectives for the long-term sustainability and advancement of the Club and serve as a research, analysis, and planning unit to aid the Club in achieving these objectives.

Committee Members Findings, Ideas and Recommendations for Further Discussions

1. On Attracting Younger Members:

- Highlight the diverse aspects of ham radio, such as public service, DXing, off-grid operations, computer-assisted digital modes, and hands-on experimentation.
- Emphasize that ham radio is not limited to traditional stereotypes and has untapped potential to engage the younger generation.
- Present a compelling case for ham radio by showing the relevance, utility, and excitement it offers in comparison to popular social media platforms and apps.

2. Engagement Strategies:

- Develop programs focused on informative and engaging meetings to attract and retain new members.
- Invite individuals with specific skills to conduct presentations, appealing to both new and existing members.
- Prioritize the youth demographic with the establishment of a dedicated youth coordinator, along with initiatives such as "Bark Junior" and "Youth Net" to engage with and attract young members.

3. Promotional Activities:

- Implement initiatives to make ham radio more fun, interesting, and entertaining without overwhelming new members with technical details.
- Embrace various social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube to expand the club's outreach and visibility.
- Participate in local events, festivals, and community activities to showcase the club's activities to a broader audience.

4. Membership Feedback and Engagement:

- Conduct a comprehensive survey to gather insights from club members regarding the future direction of the club.
- Inquire about members' experiences, expectations, and suggestions for improving the club's offerings.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Utilize the feedback to organize engaging activities, such as field day events, booths, fairs and intensify the club's social media presence.

5. Promotion and Incentives:

- Offer incentives such as free entry level HT radios preloaded with the club's repeater, targeting new techs aged 16 and below to encourage their participation and membership.
- Use mass surveys and renewal documents to gauge member satisfaction and gather suggestions for club improvement.

Conclusion

The future of the club relies on adapting to modern technology, engaging the younger generation, and continuously evolving to meet the changing needs of our members. By embracing innovative approaches and offering a diverse range of activities, we can work towards securing the sustainability and growth of our Club.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and suggestions.

Manny adds: five main topics covered here, to try to address getting new people into the club. The planning committee will be at the clubhouse Sunday, September 1st for an in-person meeting. Members are encouraged to participate via email: planning@w7dk.com

Wednesday Workshop (Randy WB4SPB)

TBD Another show & tell and technical roundtable.

General Meeting (Dave W7UUU)

The program for the Saturday Meeting will be a W7DK Living Histories Video - I will run the Steve Dightman edition which runs 20 minutes.

The videos in this series will make good fodder for "filling in" with Saturday programs.

Dave had some questions for the assembled group for captions in the upcoming Loggers Bark.

Dave mentions sending off a QRZ sticker to Fernando in Spain. He was the first one to find the hidden word in last month's Loggers Bark.

Mike W7MKE suggested that we supply W7DK stickers to the winners of the various Loggers Bark contests. Mike is going to research this subject and availability of the stickers.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Unfinished Business:

Benevity Update - Adam W2NCC

The club will be receiving \$470 from Microsoft via Benevity for the volunteering Dave W7GEL did at Field Day. This is a new funding driver for the club. The board needs to develop this funding source.

Shortened General Meeting Agenda – Adam W2NCC

At the July board meeting it was proposed to shorten the general meeting agenda by removing all the committee reports. If needed, committee leads can make comments during the announcements part of the agenda. There has been a ton of positive feedback about this change. Also, about 8 or 9 members stayed after the meeting to hangout and socialize. I feel the socializing that happened is a direct result of the meeting ending promptly after the presentation. The shortened general meeting agenda is an improvement and a positive change for members attending the meeting.

GRMS update - Adam W2NCC

The training committee Stephen AD7AB, has started making announcements on GMRS nets about RTC training classes and testing sessions. There is a subset of the GRMS community that is interested in Ham Radio. Many club members are dual licensed, which can be helpful with community outreach. Making announcements on GMRS nets about Ham radio training classes, creates opportunities to help local people enter the ham radio community and get an introduction to the Radio Club of Tacoma. It's worth noting that GMRS tends to have a younger demographic than amateur Radio.

December Christmas party:

Confirm the Christmas party will be at the Grange.

New Business?

On or before August Membership meeting President appoints Nominating Committee Bylaws Section 4

(A). Randy WB4SPB was delegated to the Nominating committee. Randy will have two other assistants ready for the next General Meeting on August 10th.

Aug 14th General Membership Meeting; Call for nominations.

Mail Salmon Run Fund Drive

Mission Statement – Adam W2NCC

A few weeks ago, Bob K7MXE pointed out the club does not have an official mission statement. In response to his comment, I created a mission statement and sent the draft to the board.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Adam was not aware that W7DK already has a "Mission statement" in our articles of incorporation. Adam will continue to research this...

Adjournment at: _____ 2020 _____

Secretary, Gary McAdams WG7X

Attachments: Attendance List.

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA
ATTENDANCE SHEET
Board of Directors Meeting
August 7th, 2024

	NAME	CALLSIGN	RCT NUM
	ATTENDED at Clubhouse	Only non BOD members BOD at top of minutes.	Applies to Eagles and at clubhouse.
1	Manny Adonis	AD7MA	3028
2	Dave Stilwell	AC7KP	2073
	Attended via ZOOM		
1	Dave Ellison	W7UUU	743
2	Bruce Hanson	WE7P	2382
3	Randy Myers	WB4SPB	2050
4	Dan Vacanti	KD7SV	2640
5	David Ashley	W7GEL	2987

GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Radio Club of Tacoma General Meeting Minutes August 10th, 2024

Meeting called to order at _____1300_____.

Officers and Directors Present

_____	President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
__X__	Vice President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
__X__	Secretary	Gary McAdams WG7X
_____	Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
__X__	Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
__X__	Board	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
__X__	Board	Paul Matney W7PFU
_____	Board	Phil Pia K7PIA
_____	Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC

NOTE: These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.

Quorum? __N__ (10% of membership required to conduct business)

Flag Salute led by: Gary WG7X

Silent Key or Illness?

Steve Dightman is back home.

President's Report Mike W7XTZ:

President Mike W7XTZ was unable to attend.

Secretary's Report (Gary WG7X)

The usual stuff: bills, bank statements, magazines and QSL cards. Of note this week are a couple of new mem-

GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

ber applications and one returning Member John Robson AC7LK. John was a member of the club quite a few years ago and has returned to us. Back in the day, John was active in the club. A big welcome back to John if you happen to see him.

General Meeting Program (Dave W7UUU)

The program for the Saturday Meeting will be a W7DK Living Histories Video - The Larry Watson KD4VOM edition which runs about 22 minutes. The videos in this series will make good fodder for "filling in" with Saturday programs.

RCT is still looking for someone to take the general meeting job off his hands.

Chair/ Committee head announcements:

POTA Expedition to Manchester State Park 8/18/24 at 10:00.

Facilities have many projects coming up: see Adam W2NCC for details.

Al N7OMS wants input from users on how the Bates repeater is coming in at their locations. 145.210.

Mike W7MKE asked about W7DK stickers for Dave, W7UUU to hand out to winners of his hidden word contest in the Loggers Bark.

Manny Adonis AD7MA had an announcement concerning the planning committee. Manny talked about his experiences in the Marines in the Recon Corp and its agreement with Larry's KD4VOM talk.

He then talked about the planning committee. (See BOD meeting notes for the entire message). For more information, email Manny AD7MA at planning@w7dk.org

Important items coming up?

On or before August Membership meeting President appoints Nominating Committee. Randy WB4SPB



GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



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has been appointed to head up that committee.

September General Membership Meeting; Call for nominations. President, Treasurer and Two Board members are up for election.

Mail Salmon Run Fund Drive.

Member Questions?

Randy WB4SPB asked the members to be on the lookout for a power adapter for a field day laptop. The power supply / AC-DC converter is labeled: PARKER. If anyone knows where this adapter is, please let Randy know. Webhost.@w7dk.org.

Gary WG7X asked the assembled members if any of them wanted to participate in the Salmon Run just let any member of the HF committee know or, just show up on that Saturday, September 21st at the clubhouse and we will fit you in.

Raffle:

The door prize won (ARRL antenna book) was won by Lloyd AG7CX.

Activity Reports, Discussion Topics, Announcements.

Mike W7MKE had an announcement about a boat anchor swap meet in antique Puget Sound Antique Radio Association. Shoreline August 18th. He suggested that one of our club members attend this swap meet and take pictures of our garage boat anchors with him to show them what we have to offer. Mike Suggested that Bob K7MXE take that duty since he is one of our subject matter experts on them (boat anchors).

Adjournment at: _____1404_____

Secretary, Gary McAdams WG7X

Attachments: Attendance list.

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA
ATTENDANCE SHEET
General Meeting

GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

August 10th, 2024

	NAME	CALLSIGN	RCT NUM
	ATTENDED at Eagles	Only non BOD members BOD at top of minutes.	Applies to Eagles and at clubhouse.
1	Walt Morey	WA7SDY	2763
2	Ronald Hall	K6HSB	2604
3	Manny Adonis	AD7MA	3028
4	Phil Shideler	KC7PS	2853
5	Randy Myers	WB4SPB	2050
6	Diane Sim	W7SIM	2304
7	Andrew Williams	KE7GNX	3150
8	Bob Heselberg	K7MXE	461
9	David Stilwell	AC7KP	2073
10	Al Ferguson	N7OMS	2107
11	Bob Purdom	AD7CJ	2240
12	Lloyd Brooks	AG7CX	2783
13	John Sherrill	N7TES	2733
14	Dan Vacanti	KD7SV	2640
15	Dave Ashley	W7GEL	2987
	Attended via ZOOM		
1	Jeff Smythe	KB7QAG	1143
2	David Ellison	W7UUU	743